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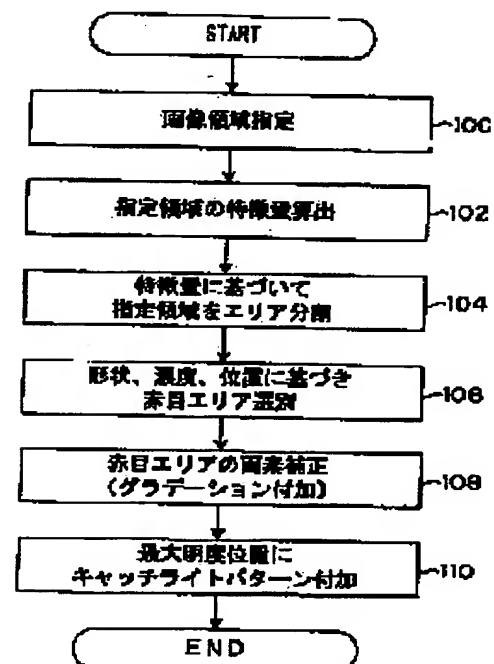
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## (54) IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make selectable only the necessary areas as the correcting object areas by segmenting en bloc color defective areas such as pink-eye areas including a catch light part and correcting these segmented areas.

SOLUTION: The image of a pink eye including is peripheral area is designated as a processing object area among those images displayed on a monitor (S100). The feature value of the processing object area that is designated by one of six designation modes is calculated (S102). The designated image is divided for every area where the feature value forms a mountain (S104). The shape, layout relation (position) among those divided image areas, area ratio, density and mean color tone are checked in each divided area, and the area having the most outstanding feature of a pupil part is selected as a pink-eye area (S106). All pixels of the pink-eye area are corrected like the lightness of the pixel having the lowest lightness based on this pixel (S108). A high luminance area, i.e., a highlight area is formed in the corrected pink-eye area as a catch light (S110).



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**CLAIMS**

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**[Claim(s)]**

[Claim 1] The picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand is made into xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The image-processing method which corrects the field which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[Claim 2] the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- for every pixel in the picture field specified beforehand in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on the view pixel of a number allotment processing object When the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is the maximum, a new number is assigned for this view pixel as a crest point. When the pixel which the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is not the maximum, and has the value of the maximum characteristic quantity other than the view pixel in the aforementioned reference field assigns and it has a number It repeats until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand. the number allotment processing which gives this allotment number to a view pixel -- the account of before -- The image-processing method according to claim 1 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field.

[Claim 3] The pixel of a law is made into a view pixel. the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- in each pixel in the picture field specified beforehand, a number is undecided -- When the pixel which has the value of the aforementioned larger characteristic quantity than a view pixel is in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on this view pixel, Memorize the position of a view pixel and the processing whose value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity makes a large pixel the point paying [ new ] its attention is repeated. If the number of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is undecided when the value of the characteristic quantity of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is the maximum in a reference field, a new number will be assigned for this point paying [ new ] its attention as a crest point. The number allotment processing which will give the number to all the pixels of the coordinate which carried out [ aforementioned ] storage if the number is already assigned to the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention the account of before -- the image-processing method according to claim 1 or 2 of performing picture field division by making a s t of a pixel with the same number into one field repeatedly until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the

picture field specified beforehand

[Claim 4] The 1st mark as configuration information which serves as size in distinction of the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil using circularity characteristic quantity for every division field, so that it is more nearly circularly near, The 2nd mark as positional information which serves as size, so that the center of gravity of a division field is close to the center position of the appointed field, The 3rd mark as area information which serves as smallness, so that the ratio of the area of a division field and the area of the appointed field separates from the predetermined range, The average or more in any one of a hue, saturation, and lightness, maximum, Any one or more of the minimum value, contrast, and histogram configurations are used. The 4th mark as statistical picture characteristic quantity which shows a color tone poor degree from comparison with statistical color tone poor field information, And it asks according to the center position of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes. The image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 1 to the claim 3 which calculates at least one of five mark of 5th mark \*\* as positional information used as smallness, so that it separates from the center of a pupil, and judges what has the highest mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 5] The image-processing method according to claim 4 of judging the field of a high order L (however, L one or more integers) individual by any two or more aforementioned averages of mark or weighted average mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 6] The picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand is made into xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The correction including the processing to which gradation is applied so that it may apply to a cent r section from the periphery of the color tone poor field of the pupil which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field and both lightness, and both [ any one or ] may fall gradually is made. The image-processing method which corrects the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[Claim 7] the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- for every pixel in the picture field specified beforehand in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on the view pixel of a number allotment processing object When the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is the maximum, a new number is assigned for this view pixel as a crest point. When the pixel which the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is not the maximum, and has the value of the maximum characteristic quantity other than the view pixel in the aforementioned reference field assigns and it has a number It repeats until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand. the number allotment processing which gives this allotment number to a view pixel -- the account of before -- The image-processing method according to claim 6 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field.

[Claim 8] The pixel of a law is made into a view pixel. the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- in each pixel in the picture field specified beforehand, a number is undecided -- When the pixel which has the value of the aforementioned d larger characteristic quantity than a view pixel is in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on this view pixel, Memorize the position of a view pixel and the processing whose value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity makes a large pixel the point paying [ new ] its attention is repeated. If the number of the aforementioned

point paying [ new ] its attention is undecided when the value of the characteristic quantity of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is the maximum in a reference field, a new number will be assigned for this point paying [ new ] its attention as a crest point. The number allotment processing which will give the number to all the pixels of the coordinate which carried out [ aforementioned ] storage if the number is already assigned to the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention the account of before -- the image-processing method according to claim 6 or 7 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field repeatedly until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand

[Claim 9] The 1st mark as configuration information which serves as size in distinction of the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil using circularity characteristic quantity for every division field, so that it is more nearly circularly near, The 2nd mark as positional information which serves as size, so that the center of gravity of a division field is close to the center position of the appointed field, The 3rd mark as area information which serves as smallness, so that the ratio of the area of a division field and the area of the appointed field separates from the predetermined range, The average or more in any one of a hue, saturation, and lightness, maximum, Any one or more of the minimum value, contrast, and histogram configurations are used. The 4th mark as statistical picture characteristic quantity which shows a color tone poor degree from comparison with statistical color tone poor field information, And it asks according to the center position of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes. The image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 6 to the claim 8 which calculates at least one of five mark of 5th mark \*\* as positional information used as smallness, so that it separates from the center of a pupil, and judges what has the highest mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 10] The image-processing method according to claim 9 of judging the field of a high order L (however, L one or more integers) individual by any two or more aforementioned averages of mark or weighted average mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 11] The picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand is made into xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The maximum lightness position of the color tone poor field of the pupil which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field is distinguished from a catch light position. The image-processing method which makes the correction including the processing which forms a catch light pattern in this catch light position, and corrects the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[Claim 12] the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- for every pixel in the picture field specified beforehand in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on the view pixel of a number allotment processing object When the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is the maximum, a new number is assigned for this view pixel as a crest point. When the pixel which the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is not the maximum, and has the value of the maximum characteristic quantity other than the view pixel in the aforementioned reference field assigns and it has a number It repeats until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand. the number allotment processing which gives this allotment number to a view pixel -- the account of before -- The image-processing method according to claim 11 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field.

[Claim 13] The pixel of a law is made into a view pixel. the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- in each pixel in the picture field specified beforehand, a number is undecided -- When the pixel which has the value of the aforementioned larger characteristic quantity than a view pixel is in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on this view pixel, Memorize the position of a view pixel and the processing whose value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity makes a large pixel the point paying [ new ] its attention is repeated. If the number of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is undecided when the value of the characteristic quantity of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is the maximum in a reference field, a new number will be assigned for this point paying [ new ] its attention as a crest point. The number allotment processing which will give the number to all the pixels of the coordinate which carried out [ aforementioned ] storage if the number is already assigned to the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention the account of before -- the image-processing method according to claim 11 or 12 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field repeatedly until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand

[Claim 14] The 1st mark as configuration information which serves as size in distinction of the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil using circularity characteristic quantity for every division field, so that it is more nearly circularly near, The 2nd mark as positional information which serves as size, so that the center of gravity of a division field is close to the center position of the appointed field, The 3rd mark as area information which serves as smallness, so that the ratio of the area of a division field and the area of the appointed field separates from the predetermined range, The average or more in any one of a hue, saturation, and lightness, maximum, Any one or more of the minimum value, contrast, and histogram configurations are used. The 4th mark as statistical picture characteristic quantity which shows a color tone poor degree from comparison with statistical color tone poor field information, And it asks according to the center position of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes. The image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 11 to the claim 13 which calculates at least one of five mark of 5th mark \*\* as positional information used as smallness, so that it separates from the center of a pupil, and judges what has the highest mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 15] The image-processing method according to claim 14 of judging the field of a high order L (however, L one or more integers) individual by any two or more aforementioned averages of mark or weighted average mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 16] The picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand is made into xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The pupil of color tone normalcy started from the normal pupil field so that the size of the pupil field which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field might be suited After enlarging or contracting, The image-processing method which makes the correction including the processing stuck on the pupil field distinguished from the aforementioned color tone poor field, and corrects the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[Claim 17] the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- for every pixel in the picture field specified beforehand in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on the view pixel of a number allotment processing object When the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is

the maximum, a new number is assigned for this view pixel as a crest point. When the pixel which the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is not the maximum, and has the value of the maximum characteristic quantity other than the view pixel in the aforementioned reference field assigns and it has a number It repeats until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand. the number allotment processing which gives this allotment number to a view pixel -- the account of before -- The image-processing method according to claim 16 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field.

[Claim 18] The pixel of a law is made into a view pixel. the time of carrying out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain -- the account of before -- in each pixel in the picture field specified beforehand, a number is undecided -- When the pixel which has the value of the aforementioned larger characteristic quantity than a view pixel is in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on this view pixel, Memorize the position of a view pixel and the processing whose value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity makes a large pixel the point paying [ new ] its attention is repeated. If the number of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is undecided when the value of the characteristic quantity of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is the maximum in a reference field, a new number will be assigned for this point paying [ new ] its attention as a crest point. The number allotment processing which will give the number to all the pixels of the coordinate which carried out [ aforementioned ] storage if the number is already assigned to the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention the account of before -- the image-processing method according to claim 16 or 17 of performing picture field division by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field repeatedly until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand

[Claim 19] The 1st mark as configuration information which serves as size in distinction of the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil using circularity characteristic quantity for every division field, so that it is more nearly circularly near, The 2nd mark as positional information which serves as size, so that the center of gravity of a division field is close to the center position of the appointed field, The 3rd mark as area information which serves as smallness, so that the ratio of the area of a division field and the area of the appointed field separates from the predetermined range, The average or more in any one of a hue, saturation, and lightness, maximum, Any one or more of the minimum value, contrast, and histogram configurations are used. The 4th mark as statistical picture characteristic quantity which shows a color tone poor degree from comparison with statistical color tone poor field information, And it asks according to the center position of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes. The image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 16 to the claim 18 which calculates at least one of five mark of 5th mark \*\* as positional information used as smallness, so that it separates from the center of a pupil, and judges what has the highest mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 20] The image-processing method according to claim 19 of judging the field of a high order L (however, L one or more integers) individual by any two or more aforementioned averages of mark or weighted average mark to be a color tone poor field.

[Claim 21] The image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 1 to the claim 20 modified so that the atmosphere of the picture of both eyes may gather, when both eyes correct a poor color tone so that the picture of the eye containing the corrected pupil portion and the picture of the unnecessary eye of correction may serve as the same atmosphere or.

[Claim 22] The image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 1 to the claim 21 which changes the kind of characteristic quantity which changes the characteristic quantity used for the field division technique of a picture, or field division according to the number of times of specification of the appointed field including the eye field where the aforementioned color tone is poor, or is used for a color tone poor field judging, the calculation method of characteristic quantity, or a criterion, or changes the correction method of a color tone poor field.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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## [Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] Especially this invention relates to the image-processing method which detects and corrects the poor color tone of the pupil of the photographic subject in a digital image about the image-processing method.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] There is a case where it is conventionally reflected as a picture of the color in which a photographic subject differs from practice according to the reflective state of the light under photography, plentifully, these bloodshot eyes are too unnatural, and since appearance is bad, correcting so that it may look automatically by the image processing is made.

[0003] For example, if a person is photoed from a transverse plane by the stroboscope, the so-called bloodshot-eyes phenomenon in which a pupil is reflected crimson or golden may arise. When the light of a stroboscope carries out incidence from a transverse plane to the eye in the state where the pupil opened in a dark place, this bloodshot-eyes phenomenon is a phenomenon which happens in order to reflect the light of a stroboscope regularly and to reflect this state to a picture, and has the bloodshot eyes to which a pupil is reflected red, and the monetary value to which a pupil is reflected golden (bloodshot eyes are henceforth called including both.).

[0004] Since such bloodshot eyes have bad projection glory, the various image-processing methods for correcting these bloodshot eyes conventionally are proposed. For example, in JP,7-72537,A, the block definition of the circumference of the eye used as the candidate for bloodshot-eyes correction is carried out, threshold processing in saturation, brightness, and a hue is performed in this field, and if the target pixel is in the threshold defined beforehand, the method of judging it as bloodshot eyes and correcting is mentioned. Moreover, in JP,9-261580,A, a pupil candidate field is chosen based on the sexual desire news and colour information in the field surrounded by the edge, and the method of making bloodshot-eyes correction is mentioned by correcting the color tone poor pixel in all the selected pupil candidate fields.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, by the conventional methods, such as JP,7-72537,A mentioned above and JP,9-261580,A, a bloodshot-eyes field is distinguished by threshold processing in saturation, brightness, and a hue, and it is correcting, and since the saturation of bloodshot eyes, brightness, and a hue are broad, it is not avoided that incorrect extraction and the leakage in extraction take place in many samples. Moreover, for example, a beige portion is also corrected black with bloodshot-eyes processing of a pupil, and there is also a possibility of becoming the picture which has sense of incongruity as a result.

[0006] Moreover, in the case where the edge of a picture is extracted like JP,9-261580,A, generally, since the edge of a picture is quite complicated, it also has superfluous division and a possibility that a field division mistake may occur.

[0007] That is, since it distinguishes whether they are bloodshot eyes only by the threshold of a color by the former method, without dividing for every field, and a field without the need for correction is easy to be detected with the required field of correction as a correction object domain and cannot divide a field correctly by the latter method, there is a problem that it is

difficult to correct only the pupil field which is a correction object domain.

[0008] Then, no matter this invention may be what picture, it sets it as the 1st purpose to offer the image-processing method which can choose only the field which divides a field correctly and has the need for correction as a correction object domain. Moreover, it sets it as the 2nd purpose to offer the image-processing method which can choose only a pupil field correctly. Furthermore, it sets it as the 3rd purpose to offer correctly the image-processing method which can correct for the pupil field which is a correction object domain. Moreover, it sets it as the 4th purpose to offer the image-processing method which can make a natural atmosphere to the corrected picture.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the 1st purpose of the above, the picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand is made into xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity, the color tone poor field of a pupil is distinguished, and a color tone poor field and the distinguished field are corrected so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[0010] That is, this invention is the method of starting collectively and correcting color tone poor fields, such as a bloodshot-eyes field including the catch light portion. As for a bloodshot-eyes portion, since the reflection from a retina is as strong as the center of the pupil section, lightness has the inclination to fall towards a periphery from a center. Therefore, it uses that lightness also including a catch light is distributed in the shape of a mountain. Moreover, with the Brown system pupil, the iris section uses the valley and bird clapper of lightness, and the iris section uses the valley and bird clapper with the pupil section which became bloodshot eyes about the size of the value of redness in a blue system pupil.

[0011] That is, it uses that a valley is made between the bloodshot-eyes section, its adjoining pewter, and the skin section using the characteristic quantity which combined lightness and redness, and the bloodshot-eyes section is separated with pewter and the skin section by carrying out field division for every mountain of the aforementioned characteristic quantity.

[0012] Moreover, in case invention of a claim 2 carries out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain the account of before -- for every pixel in the picture field specified beforehand in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on the view pixel of a number allotment processing object When the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is the maximum, a new number is assigned for this view pixel as a crest point. When the pixel which the value of the aforementioned characteristic quantity of a view pixel is not the maximum, and has the value of the maximum characteristic quantity other than the view pixel in the aforementioned reference field assigns and it has a number the number allotment processing which gives this allotment number -- the account of before -- picture field division is performed by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field repeatedly until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand According to this method, since field division can be carried out to program processing etc., it troubles a user and is desirable.

[0013] Furthermore, in case invention according to claim 3 carries out field division of the xy flat surface for every field with the distribution configuration of the shape of an aforementioned mountain The pixel of a law is made into a view pixel. the account of before -- in each pixel in the picture field specified beforehand, a number is undecided -- When the pixel which has the value of the aforementioned larger characteristic quantity than the point paying [ present ] its attention is in the reference field for a N line xM train (1 or more [ However, N and M ]) pixel centering on this view pixel, The processing whose value of the aforementioned characteristic

quantity carry out the accumulation storage of the position of the point paying [ present ] one's attention, and makes a large pixel the point paying [ new ] its attention is repeated. If the number of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is undecided when the value of the characteristic quantity of the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention is the maximum in a reference field, a new number will be assigned for this point paying [ new ] its attention as a crest point. The number allotment processing which will give the number to all the pixels of the coordinate which carried out [ aforementioned ] accumulation if the number is already assigned to the aforementioned point paying [ new ] its attention the account of before — picture field division is performed by making a set of a pixel with the same number into one field repeatedly until one of crest point numbers is given about all the pixels in the picture field specified beforehand

[0014] Thus, about the pixel which cannot give a number, the position is memorized as a coordinate, for example, and if a number is given to the pixel which became a point paying [ new ] its attention at the last, processing which carries out field division for every mountain of the aforementioned characteristic quantity can be performed at high speed by processing so that the number of the pixel which finally became a point paying [ new ] its attention may be given to all the pixels of the memorized coordinate.

[0015] Invention of a claim 4 is set to distinction of the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil in the image-processing method according to claim 1. The 1st mark as configuration information which serves as size using circularity characteristic quantity for every division field, so that it is more nearly circularly near, The 2nd mark as positional information which serves as size, so that the center of gravity of a division field is close to the center position of the appointed field, The 3rd mark as area information which serves as smallness, so that the ratio of the area of a division field and the area of the appointed field separates from the predetermined range, The average or more in any one of a hue, saturation, and lightness, maximum, Any one or more of the minimum value, contrast, and histogram configurations are used. The 4th mark as statistical picture characteristic quantity which shows a color tone poor degree from comparison with statistical color tone poor field information, And it asks according to the center position of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes, at least one of five mark of the 5th mark as positional information used as smallness is calculated, so that it separates from the center of a pupil, and what has the highest mark is judged to be a color tone poor field.

[0016] Namely, invention according to claim 4 is the method of judging color tone poor fields, such as a division field according to claim 1 to a bloodshot-eyes field. It converts into the 1st which has an inclination used as low mark — the 5th mark, and a color tone poor field is distinguished using at least one of these [ 1st ] — the 5th mark as the portion respectively near a pupil keeps away the statistical characteristic quantity about the configuration of a division field, area, a position, and concentration from high mark and a pupil.

[0017] In addition, if the diameter of a pupil is computed based on the center of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes from there being a relation of becoming the diameter of a pupil if the multiplication of the predetermined coefficient (generally 0.07–0.11) is carried out to the interval of both eyes, the inside of the circle-like field which has this diameter has the highest mark and the 5th mark separate from a center, they have the inclination for mark to become low.

[0018] Preferably, as indicated to the claim 5, it is good to judge the field of a high order L (however, L one or more integers) individual by the number of the average mark or weighted average mark or more in any two of the five aforementioned mark to be a color tone poor field. Since the inclination of each field is differentiated more and becomes clear by taking a weighted average, a color tone poor field can be distinguished with a sufficient precision.

[0019] In order to attain the above 3rd and the 4th purpose, moreover, invention of a claim 6 The picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand is made into xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat

surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in, the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The correction including the processing to which gradation is applied so that it may apply to a center section from the periphery of the color tone poor field of the pupil which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field and both lightness, and both [ any one or ] may fall gradually is made. The color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil is corrected so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[0020] Namely, in invention of a claim 6, since the aforementioned color tone poor field is distinguished by the same method as the above-mentioned claim 1, it can separate into pewter and the skin section, and accuracy, and color tone poor fields, such as bloodshot eyes, can be corrected with a sufficient precision.

[0021] In order to attain the 4th purpose of the above by invention of a claim 6 in addition to it, processing to which gradation is applied is performed so that it may apply to a center section from a periphery and both lightness, and both [ any one or ] may fall gradually in the case of correction of the color tone poor field of a pupil. Since the direction of the color for a center section serves as a color of the actual pupil portion used as the color deeper than a part for a periphery from this closely, the pupil picture after correction can be made into a natural atmosphere. In addition, since a claim 9 has the same operation as the above-mentioned claim 2 to the claim 5 from a claim 7, explanation is omitted.

[0022] Moreover, invention of a claim 10 makes the picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field, positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The maximum lightness position of the color tone poor field of the pupil which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field is distinguished from a catch light position. The correction including the processing which forms a catch light pattern in this catch light position is made, and the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil is corrected so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[0023] Namely, in invention of a claim 10, since the aforementioned color tone poor field is distinguished by the same method as the above-mentioned claim 1 like the above-mentioned claim 6, it can separate into pewter and the skin section, and accuracy, and color tone poor fields, such as bloodshot eyes, can be corrected with a sufficient precision.

[0024] In addition to it, by invention of a claim 10, the maximum lightness position in the field of a pupil portion is distinguished from a catch light position, and the catch light pattern is formed. Namely, since it is the field where concentration is thin partially in a pupil portion with deep concentration, as for a catch light, it turns out that a catch light position is brightest position. Therefore, the picture of the eye of the impression which was natural and was lively is acquired by performing processing which prepares a catch light in the maximum lightness position in the field of a pupil portion. In addition, since a claim 15 has the same operation as the above-mentioned claim 2 to the claim 5 from a claim 11, explanation is omitted.

[0025] Invention of a claim 16 makes the picture field including the eye field which became poor [ a color tone ] specified beforehand xy flat surface. Picture characteristic quantity is calculated for every pixel with any one or two combination or more in a hue, saturation, and lightness. Set up the 3-dimensional xyz space which arranges this characteristic quantity to the z-axis, and field division of the xy flat surface is carried out for every field in which the value of the z-axis has a mountain-like distribution configuration to the breadth of xy flat surface. With any one or two combination or more in the configuration information on xy flat surface of each division field,

positional information, area information, and statistical picture characteristic quantity The pupil of color tone normalcy started from the normal pupil field so that the size of the pupil field which distinguished the color tone poor field of a pupil and was distinguished from the color tone poor field might be suited After enlarging or contracting, The correction including the processing stuck on the pupil field distinguished from the aforementioned color tone poor field is made, and the color tone poor field of the aforementioned pupil is corrected so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually.

[0026] That is, by comparatively easy correction processing, since enlarging or contracting of the pupil of color tone normalcy started from the normal pupil field is carried out to the pupil field distinguished from the color tone poor field and invention of a claim 16 sticks it on it, it can correct the color tone poor field of a pupil so that it may become the picture of a normal eye visually. In addition, since a claim 20 has the same operation as the above-mentioned claim 2 to the claim 5 from a claim 17, explanation is omitted.

[0027] In order to attain the 4th purpose of the above, furthermore, invention of a claim 21 In the image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 1 to the claim 21 According to the number of times of specification of the appointed field including the eye field where the aforementioned color tone is poor, the characteristic quantity used for the field division technique of a picture or field division is changed. Or the kind of characteristic quantity used for a color tone poor field judging, the calculation method of characteristic quantity, or a criterion is changed, or the correction method of a color tone poor field is changed.

[0028] Since it can shift or fine correction of making the color of the corrected eye into the same atmosphere as the color of another [ without the need for correction ] eye can make, it is possible to make a natural atmosphere so that the position of the picture of the eye which compared and corrected the position of another [ without the need for correction ] eye and the position of the picture of the corrected eye by this may be arranged in a natural position. Moreover, position amendment of a catch light is also performed so that the physical relationship in the pupil of a catch light may gather by both eyes.

[0029] When invention of a claim 22 performs bloodshot-eyes correction processing two or more times, are invention, and it sets to the image-processing method given in any 1 term of a claim 1 to the claim 21. According to the number of times of specification of the appointed field including the eye field where the aforementioned color tone is poor, the characteristic quantity used for the field division technique of a picture or field division is changed. Or the kind of characteristic quantity used for a color tone poor field judging, the calculation method of characteristic quantity, or a criterion is changed, or the correction method of a color tone poor field is changed.

[0030] For example, when a bloodshot-eyes field criterion is field division the whole mountain of the above-mentioned characteristic quantity, the bloodshot-eyes field criterion which is a two-times eye is changed into the field division by the degree of similar of a tint instead of field division the whole mountain of the above-mentioned characteristic quantity, or excepting the area criteria which excepted or used the circularity criteria used by the first judgment in the judgment by the first judgment etc. is mentioned.

[0031]

[The operation form of invention] The outline composition of the digital language laboratory system 10 concerning this operation form is shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2 .

[0032] As shown in drawing 1 , this digital language laboratory system 10 is constituted including the line CCD scanner 14, the image-processing section 16, the LASER beam printer section 18, and the processor section 20, the line CCD scanner 14 and the image-processing section 16 are unified as the input section 26 shown in drawing 2 , and the LASER beam printer section 18 and the processor section 20 are unified as the output section 28 shown in drawing 2 .

[0033] The line CCD scanner 14 is for reading the coma picture currently recorded on photographic films, such as a negative film and a reversal film, for example, can set the coma picture of the photographic film of the photographic film of 135 sizes, the photographic film of 110 sizes and the photographic film (photographic film : the so-called APS film of 240 sizes) in which the transparent magnetic layer was formed, 120 sizes, and 220 sizes (brownie size) as the

reading object. After the line CCD scanner 14 reads the coma picture for [ above ] reading with a line CCD 30 and it carries out A/D conversion in the A/D-conversion section 32, it outputs image data to the image-processing section 16.

[0034] In addition, the form of this operation explains as digital language laboratory system 10 at the time of applying the photographic film (APS film) 68 of 240 sizes.

[0035] While the image data (scanning image data) outputted from the line CCD scanner 14 is inputted, the image-processing section 16 The image data obtained by photography in digital camera 34 grade, the image data obtained by reading manuscripts (for example, reflection copy etc.) with a scanner 36 (flat bed type), The image data which was generated by other computers and recorded on the floppy disk drive 38, MO drive, or the CD drive 40, And it is constituted so that it may also be possible to input from the outside the communication image data which receives through a modem 42 (for these to be hereafter named file image data generically).

[0036] The image-processing section 16 memorizes the inputted image data to an image memory 44, performs image processings, such as various kinds of amendments of the color gradation processing section 46, the hyper-tone processing section 48, and hyper-sharpness processing section 50 grade, and outputs them to the LASER beam printer section 18 as image data for record. Moreover, the thing (for example, output to storages, such as FD, MO, and CD, or it transmits to other information management systems through a communication line) of the image-processing section 16 outputted to the exterior by making into an image file the image data which performed the image processing is also made possible.

[0037] The LASER beam printer section 18 is equipped with the laser light source 52 of R, G, and B, controls the laser driver 54, irradiates the laser beam modulated according to the image data for record (an image memory 56 once memorizes) inputted from the image-processing section 16 at printing paper, and records a picture on printing paper 62 by scanning exposure (optical system which mainly used the polygon mirror 58 and the ftheta lens 60 with the gestalt of this operation). Moreover, the processor section 20 performs each processing of the color development, bleaching fixing, rinsing, and dryness to the printing paper 62 in which the picture was recorded by scanning exposure in the LASER beam printer section 18. Thereby, a picture is formed on printing paper.

[0038] (Composition of a line CCD scanner) The composition of the line CCD scanner 14 is explained below. The outline composition of the optical system of the line CCD scanner 14 is shown in drawing 1 . This optical system equips the photographic film 68 with the light source 66 which irradiates light, and the optical diffusion board 72 which makes the diffused light light which irradiates a photographic film 68 is arranged at the irradiation appearance side of the light source 66.

[0039] A photographic film 68 is conveyed by the tape carrier package 74 arranged at the side in which the optical diffusion board 72 was arranged so that the screen of a coma picture may become an optical axis and a perpendicular.

[0040] On both sides of the photographic film 68, the lens unit 76 and Line CCD 30 to which image formation of the light which penetrated the coma picture is carried out are arranged in order along with the optical axis at the light source 66 and the opposite side. In addition, although only the lens single as a lens unit 76 is shown, the lens unit 76 is the zoom lens which consisted of two or more lenses in fact. In addition, you may use a selfoc lens as a lens unit 76. In this case, it is desirable to make the ends side of a selfoc lens approach a photographic film 68 and a line CCD 30 as much as possible, respectively.

[0041] The sensing section in which it has been arranged at the single tier along the cross direction of two or more photographic films 68 by which CCD cell conveyance is carried out, and the electronic shutter style was prepared vacates an interval, and is prepared three lines in parallel mutually, it is respectively attached in the optical incidence side of each sensing section any of the color separation filter of R, G, and B they are, and the line CCD 30 is constituted (the so-called three-line color CCD). The line CCD 30 is arranged so that the light-receiving side of each sensing section may be in agreement with the image formation point position of the lens unit 76.

[0042] Moreover, although illustration is omitted, the shutter is formed between the line CCD 30



and the lens unit 76.

(Composition of the control system of the image-processing section 16) The detailed control-block view for performing each processing of the image memory 44 which is the main composition of the image-processing section 16 shown in drawing 1, the color gradation processing 46, the hyper-tone processing 48, and the hyper-sharpness processing 50 is shown in drawing 3.

[0043] In the data-processing section 200, each digital signal of RGB outputted from the line CCD scanner 14 is changed into digital image data (concentration data) by the log converter 202, after predetermined data processing, such as amendment, defective pixel amendment, and a shading compensation, is performed at the time of dark, press can data are memorized by the press can memory 204, and fine scan data are memorized by the fine scan memory 206.

[0044] The press can data memorized by the press can memory 204 are sent out to the press can processing section 212 which consisted of the image-data-processing section 208 and an image data transducer 210. On the other hand, the fine scan data memorized by the fine scan memory 206 are sent out to the fine scanning-and-processing section 218 which consisted of the image-data-processing section 214 and an image data transducer 216.

[0045] In these press can processing sections 212 and the fine scanning-and-processing section 218, when a picture is photoed, amendment based on the stroboscope luminous-intensity-distribution property when taking a photograph at which the lens property and the stroboscop were used etc. is performed.

[0046] Moreover, the lens property data feed zone 234 which outputs the lens property according to the photography camera which acquires the information which distinguishes the camera which photoed the film from the film property storage section 232 which memorizes the property of various films, and corresponds is connected to the image-data-processing sections 208 and 214.

[0047] The property of a film is a gradation property (gamma characteristics), and, generally it is expressed with the curve from which concentration changes in three dimensions according to light exposure. In addition, since this point is well-known technology, detailed explanation is omitted.

[0048] Moreover, if specification of a film kind is the form of this operation, the information which shows a film kind is recorded on the magnetic-recording layer of an APS film, and it can be read by the magnetic head at the time of conveyance with the carrier 74 of the line CCD scanner 14. Moreover, in the case of a 135 size film, you may judge in the configuration (perforation is prepared in crosswise ends in the comparatively short pitch) etc., and an operator may be made to key to it. By specifying a film kind, the relative concentration from the film base concentration of a picture is correctly computable.

[0049] In the image-data-processing sections 208 and 214, a reference value is amended according to the film kind and camera kind which are acquired from the film property storage section 232 and the lens property data feed zone 234, and color-balance adjustment, contrast adjustment (color gradation processing), luminosity amendment, saturation amendment (hyper-tone processing), hyper-sharpness processing, etc. are performed according to LUT, a matrix (MTX) operation, etc.

[0050] Moreover, the bloodshot-eyes processing sections 220 and 222 which correct to a natural color the pupil portion which became bloodshot eyes after each aforementioned adjustment and amendment are formed in the image-data-processing sections 208 and 214. About the bloodshot-eyes correction in these bloodshot-eyes processing sections 220 and 222, it mentions later.

[0051] It has changed into the image data for a display for displaying the image data processed by the image-data-processing section 208 on monitor 16M based on 3D-LUT in the image data transducer 210 by the side of a press can. On the other hand, in the image data transducer 216 by the side of a fine scan, the image data processed by the image-data-processing section 214 is changed into the image data for a print in the LASER beam printer section 18 based on 3D-LUT. In addition, the image data and the image data for a print for the above-mentioned display are aiming at coincidence by following various amendments, although color coordinate systems

differ.

[0052] That is, the conditioning section 224 is connected to the press can processing section 212 and the fine scanning-and-processing section 218. The conditioning section 224 consists of the setup section 226, the key amendment section 228, and the parameter integrated section 230.

[0053] Using press can data, the setup section 226 sets up the reading conditions of a fine scan, supplies them to the line CCD scanner 14, and calculates the image-processing conditions of the press can processing section 212 and the fine scanning-and-processing section 218, and supplies them to the parameter integrated section 230.

[0054] According to various kinds of directions inputted with the key which adjusts the concentration set as keyboard 16K, a color, contrast, sharpness, saturation, etc., or the mouse, the key amendment section 228 calculates the amount of adjustments of image-processing conditions, and supplies it to the parameter integrated section 230.

[0055] In the parameter integrated section 230, the image-processing conditions received from the above-mentioned setup section 226 and the key amendment section 228 are sent to the image-data-processing section 208,214 by the side of a press can and a fine scan, and image-processing conditions are amended or reconfigured.

[0056] Here, the bloodshot-eyes correction in the bloodshot-eyes processing sections 220 and 222 is explained, referring to the flow view of drawing 4.

[0057] At Step 100, color-balance adjustment, contrast adjustment, luminosity amendment, saturation amendment (hyper-tone processing), hyper-sharpness processing, etc. specify the picture of the eye used as bloodshot eyes as a processing-object field including the circumference out of the picture which various amendment processings, such as LUT and a matrix (MTX) operation, were performed, and was displayed on monitor 16M.

[0058] Specification of a processing-object field can be performed by inputting from the key amendment section 228 by the operator, or boiling the image-data-processing section 214 and therefore extracting the field which red is concentrating partially within a picture. With this operation gestalt, the processing-object field is specified from the key amendment section 228 by the key input by the operator.

[0059] In addition, as the specification method of the processing-object field by the operator, as shown in drawing 11 (A) – (F), it chooses from the six modes, both the eye package specification mode 1, both the eye package specification mode 2, the independent specification mode 1, the independent specification mode 2, the independent specification mode 3, and the independent specification mode 4, and can specify, for example.

[0060] Both the eye package specification mode 1 is the mode in which surround by the rectangle-like frame 13 with a mouse, a keyboard, etc. in which the field containing the boundary region of both eyes and both eyes was established by the image-processing section 16, and the field in a frame 13 is specified, as shown in drawing 11 (A). In this case, as the dashed line of drawing 11 (A) shows, it specifies by the predetermined ratio from both the outsides of the major axis of the frame 13 which \*\*\*\*\*ed), and a field is divided, and let the obtained division field be a processing-object field. In addition, a predetermined ratio is a ratio which computes statistically the ratio of the size of the eye to the size of the major axis of a frame 13, and is obtained, and respectively, including at least one eye, the divided field is set up so that the field of a glabella may be removed. In addition, a frame 13 is good also as other configurations, such as not only the shape of a rectangle but elliptical.

[0061] Moreover, both the eye package specification mode 2 is the mode in which specify with a mouse, a keyboard, etc. in which the core of the pupil of both eyes was established by the image-processing section 16, and the field containing the boundary region of both eyes and both eyes is specified, as shown in drawing 11 (B). In this case, the field of the shape of an ellipse which makes length which serves as a predetermined ratio from the ends of the straight line which connects the specified core of the pupil of both eyes one half of the length of a major axis is made into the field of each eye, and let the obtained division field be a processing-object field.

[0062] In addition, also in this case, like both the above-mentioned eye package specification



mode 1, it is the ratio which computes statistically the ratio of the size of the eye to the straight line which connects the core of the pupil of both eyes specified to be a predetermined ratio, and is obtained, and respectively, including at least one eye, an ellipse-like field is set up so that the field of a glabella may be removed.

[0063] Moreover, in both the above-mentioned eye package specification mode 1 and both the eye package specification mode 2, the field which contained both eyes, without dividing a field into each eye field is made into a processing-object field, is put in block, and bloodshot-eyes extraction processing can be performed.

[0064] The independent specification mode 1 is the mode which surrounds the field containing the boundary region of one eye by the rectangle-like frame 13 with a mouse, a keyboard, etc. in which it was prepared by the image-processing section 16, specifies it, and makes the field in a frame 13 a processing-object field, as shown in drawing 11 (C). Also in this case, a frame 13 is good also as other configurations, such as not only the shape of a rectangle but elliptical.

[0065] Moreover, the independent specification mode 2 is the mode in which specify the core of an eye, and the position of the frame formed so that the whole eye may be included as shown in drawing 11 (D), set up so that the frame 13 which contains one eye based on the ratio obtained statistically from the position of the frame to a core may be formed automatically, and the field in this frame 13 is specified as a processing-object field.

[0066] The independent specification mode 3 is the mode in which set up so that the frame 13 of the default size containing the whole eye may be formed automatically, and the field in this frame 13 is specified as a processing-object field, by specifying one one side with the core of an eye, or the periphery of an eye 15 times, as shown in drawing 11 (E). In addition, it can also consider as the mode in which set up so that the whole face may be surrounded by frames, such as the shape of a rectangle, and elliptical, etc. in this case and the frame of one eye or both eye area size may be automatically formed after specification according to the ratio of a face and an eye, and this field within the limit is specified as a processing-object field. Or it can also consider as the mode in which form automatically the frame which specifies the core of both eyes and includes both eyes, and this field within the limit is specified as a processing-object field.

[0067] The independent specification mode 4 is the mode in which the field within the limit which surrounded in the handwritten way with a mouse, a keyboard, etc. in which it was prepared by the image-processing section 16, was crowded and formed the surrounding field of the eye containing an eye is specified as a processing-object field, as shown in drawing 11 (F).

[0068] next -- Step 102 -- the six above-mentioned modes -- the characteristic quantity of the processing-object field specified by any one mode is computed Here, the value of the color obtained from a hue, saturation, and lightness as an extraction element is chosen, and the characteristic quantity which can start the picture of a pupil portion collectively is chosen.

[0069] Since it becomes so large that redness of an r value is strong when redness is expressed with an r value here, in the bloodshot-eyes section, it becomes a large next door, and becomes a minus value by the blue eye. Moreover, if lightness is expressed with a gray d value, since d value serves as size, a bright pixel will serve as smallness by the iris section of a large next door and the Brown system pupil in the catch light section and the pewter section.

[0070] Specifically, when a red value (r) is made into characteristic quantity A and a gray value (d) is made into characteristic quantity B, it is  $\alpha B + (1 - \alpha) \times |A|$ . -- It is a formula (1) (however, although  $\alpha = 0.3$  or more and  $0.5$  or less are experimentally obtained as a desirable value of  $\alpha$ ). it can also consider as other values When the value of the characteristic quantity C obtained is graph-ized as a position on the straight line which passes a horizontal axis along a pupil, it has a mountain-like wave for every field of the element (for example, a pewter portion, a pupil portion, a skin portion) which constitutes a picture. In addition, in the definition of the above-mentioned characteristic quantity, it is good also as  $d = (R + G + B) / 3$  and  $A = (R - d)$  by the color expression by RGB.

[0071] For example, the graph of the characteristic quantity C computed along with the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along an outer canthus has three mountain-like waves corresponding to the field of two pewter portions and the field of a pupil portion in right and left of a pupil, as shown in drawing 10. In addition, extraction of bloodshot eyes is raising the

bloodshot-eyes extractability ability of the pupil of a blue system more difficult than the Brown system by absolute-value-izing characteristic quantity A in the formula of the above-mentioned characteristic quantity C.

[0072] Moreover, although the graph of characteristic quantity A is indicated to drawing 10 (b) and the graph of characteristic quantity B is indicated to drawing 10 (c) as an example of another characteristic quantity, respectively, in drawing 10 (b) and drawing 10 (c), a solid line shows the characteristic quantity of the bloodshot eyes to which a pupil is reflected red, the dotted line shows the valuable characteristic quantity to which a pupil is reflected golden, and the overlapping field serves as a solid line. With these graphs, since the reflected light of monetary value is strong, yellow understands in tint that lightness is high soon for it.

[0073] In the following step 104, field division of the picture is carried out for every field in which characteristic quantity forms a mountain.

[0074] A user specifies or processing by the program is performed so that the pixel (namely, pixel of the position used as a valley) of low characteristic quantity may be most divided as a field as the method of field division, for example, as shown in drawing 10 (b) and drawing 10 (c). In drawing 10 (b) and drawing 10 (c), the bloodshot-eyes field containing a catch light forms a mountain, and the iris section serves as a valley between a pewter portion or a skin portion, and it has become the boundary of field division. In addition, when blue system pupils are bloodshot eyes, the iris section serves as a boundary of field division on the boundary of the blue iris section and the pupil section by above-mentioned [A].

[0075] Moreover, as an option, as shown in drawing 12 (B), the characteristic quantity D which has the mountain configuration where it corresponded every three fields of the portion of the pewter of both sides and a central pupil portion can be chosen, and number allotment processing can divide a field.

[0076] This number allotment processing is processing which assigns the number of the pixel which has the biggest characteristic quantity in the reference area which makes the reference area 24 which consists of nine pixels of three line x3 train which makes a central pixel the view pixel 21 a number allotment processing field, and consists of nine pixels to the view pixel 21, as shown in drawing 12 (A).

[0077] As one example, the characteristic quantity D of drawing 12 (B) is chosen, and the field expanded partially is explained for explanation. As shown in drawing 13 (A), a total of the pixel line of three lines, the pixel line of N lines which is a pixel corresponding to the portions of the 1st mountain configuration of the characteristic quantity D of drawing 12 (B) and the 2nd mountain configuration, the pixel train of N-1 line on it, and the lower pixel train of N+1 line, is shown in drawing 13 (B) and drawing 13 (C) n train every, respectively. in addition, the coordinate of each attention pixel -- \*\* (however (XN, Ym), m one or more natural numbers) -- it describes

[0078] As shown in drawing 13 (B), when even eye eye one train - 3 train is made into the reference area 24, it first judges whether the characteristic quantity D of the attention pixel 21 and the becoming pixel (XN, Y2) is the largest in the reference area 24. In this case, since the characteristic quantity of the pixel (XN, Y3) of \*\*\*\* is larger than the characteristic quantity of the attention pixel 21 and the becoming pixel (XN, Y2) as shown in drawing 13 (A), a number is not given to the attention pixel 21 and the becoming pixel (XN, Y2), but it judges whether characteristic quantity is large in reference area about the attention pixel of the next reference area.

[0079] in addition, in this example, it shall process so that an attention pixel is alike and may move one [ at a time ] in the direction of arrow I in accordance with N train Therefore, as for the next reference area, reference area will move like eye eye three trains - 5 train and -- in eye eye two trains - 4 train and its next reference area.

[0080] As shown in drawing 13 (C), when even eye 3 - 5 train is made into the reference area 24, since the characteristic quantity of the attention pixel 21 and the becoming pixel (XN, Y4) corresponds to the peak of the mountain configuration exactly shown in drawing 13 (A), it becomes the largest. Therefore, "1" is given as a new allotment number and the size of characteristic quantity is judged about the attention pixel of the next reference area (namely,

eye eye four trains - 6 train).

[0081] Since characteristic quantity is smaller than the last attention pixel, as for all the attention pixels of the reference area of up to eye eight trains make the pixel corresponding to a trough into an attention pixel from the reference area of eye ey four trains - 6 train - 10 train, "1" will be given altogether.

[0082] Since all the reference area of up to eye 13 trains make the pixel in front of [ of the pixel corresponding to next Yamabe ] one into an attention pixel from the reference area of up to eye 7 which make the following one pixel an attention pixel trains - 9 train of the pixel corresponding to the aforementioned trough - 15 train has characteristic quantity larger than the last attention pixel, a number is not given altogether. "2" is given even for all the attention pixels of the reference area which makes the pixel corresponding to the following trough an attention pixel from the reference area of up to eye 14 trains make the pixel corresponding to next Yamabe into an attention pixel - 16 train as a new allotment number. by this repeat As shown in drawing 13 (D), in allotment processing of a single-tier eye, the new allotment number corresponding to each mountain will be given partially.

[0083] Therefore, since characteristic quantity in reference area including comparison with th number already assigned by number allotment processing of the Nth line will be measured when the following line, for example, the N+1st line, is made into an attention pixel, By performing number allotment processing repeatedly, the number to which the pixel which constitutes each mountain configuration was altogether given corresponding to each mountain configuration will be given, and, finally a number will be given to all pixels. Therefore, two or more fields divided by th number which corresponded for every mountain configuration of characteristic quantity will b obtained.

[0084] In addition, a pixel with larger characteristic quantity ( $X_n, Y_{m+1}$ ) than the characteristic quantity of an attention pixel ( $X_n, Y_m$ ) exists in reference area. When the number is not given to this pixel, the position of an attention pixel ( $X_n, Y_m$ ) is memorized as a coordinate. the pixel ( $X_n, Y_{m+1}$ ) of the aforementioned \*\*\*\* -- a new attention pixel -- carrying out -- reference area -- determining -- this -- it judges whether it has the characteristic quantity in the newly determined reference area with the new biggest attention pixel ( $X_n, Y_{m+1}$ )

[0085] the above, if the pixel which has bigger characteristic quantity than a new attention pix l ( $X_n, Y_{m+1}$ ) exists in the newly determined reference area Furthermore, the position of a new attention pixel ( $X_n, Y_{m+1}$ ) is memorized as a coordinate. the above -- you may process the pixel ( $X_{n+i}, Y_{m+j}$ ) (however, i and j integer) which has bigger characteristic quantity than a new attention pixel ( $X_n, Y_{m+1}$ ) so that the processing same as a new attention pixel may be repeated

[0086] In this case, if it memorizes when a number cannot be given about the pixel which measured characteristic quantity once, although only the pixel of the same line does not necessarily turn into an attention pixel, and a number is given to a pixel with the highest characteristic quantity in the field since the number will be given to all the memorized pixels as shown in drawing 14 -- repeatedly -- repeating -- \*\* -- compared with the case where measure characteristic quantity and a number is given, number allotment processing can be performed at a quick speed By such number allotment processing, as shown in drawing 6 , the area corresponding to the part of an eye by which field division was carried out for every field is obtained mostly.

[0087] At Step 106, it checks [ field / which was divided at Step 104 ] about each of a configuration, an arrangement relation (position) with other fields, the rate of surface ratio, concentration, and an average tint, respectively, and what has the feature of a pupil portion most is chosen as a bloodshot-eyes field. In addition, when two or more fields are chosen as a bloodshot-eyes field in the picture of on eye, it evaluates about each of a configuration, an arrangement relation (position) with other fields, the rate of surface ratio, concentration, and an average tint, and the field where evaluation is the highest is chosen as a bloodshot-eyes field.

[0088] As the method of evaluation, for every division field, it asks for the 1st mark to which mark become high, and there is the m thod of making what has the f ature of a pupil portion most, i.e., a bloodshot-eyes field, what has the highest mark, for example, so that circularity is

large. Moreover, the distance between the position of the center of gravity and the center position of the appointed field is computed, for every division field, it asks for the 2nd mark from which mark serve as size, so that distance is short, and there is the method of making what has the feature of a pupil portion most, i.e., a bloodshot-eyes field, what has the highest mark.

[0089] Furthermore, it asks for the 3rd mark to which mark become small, and there is the method of making what has the feature of a pupil portion most, i.e., a bloodshot-eyes field, what has the highest mark, so that it asks for the ratio of the area of a division field, and the area of the appointed field and the obtained ratio separates from it for every division field from predetermined ranges, such as the range of the ratio of the area of a pupil and the area of the appointed field for

[0090] Moreover, the average or more in any one of a hue, saturation, and lightness, Any one or more of maximum, the minimum value, contrast, and histogram configurations are used. From comparison with the statistical color tone poor field information measured beforehand, what has the feature near the feature of a color tone poor field asks for the 4th mark to which mark become high, and has the method of making what has the feature of a pupil portion most, i.e., a bloodshot-eyes field, what has the highest mark.

[0091] Furthermore, it asks for the 5th mark to which mark become small, and there is the method of making what has the feature of a pupil portion most, i.e., a bloodshot-eyes field, what has the highest mark, so that it asks according to the center position of a pupil specified beforehand, and the interval of both eyes and separates from the center of a pupil. If a pupil portion separates from a pupil with the peak as shown in drawing 15 (B) showing the mark on the dashed line shown in drawing 15 (A), the 5th mark will be set up so that mark may become low.

[0092] Although at least one of these five mark may be chosen and a bloodshot-eyes field may be distinguished based on these mark, it is good more preferably to judge the field of a high order L (1 or more [ However, L ]) individual by the number of the average mark or weighted average mark or more in two of the five aforementioned mark to be a color tone poor field.

[0093] For example, as shown in drawing 16, when being divided into six area (division field), as shown in drawing 16 (A) The 1st mark One A4 area, two A6 area, three A2 area, Four A3 area, five A1 area, and area 6 are A5 points, and, as for area 1, as for B5 point, two B4 area, and ar a 3, the 2nd mark presuppose that it is B6 point B-2 point, four B3 area, five B1 area, and area 6. However,  $A1 > A2 > A3 > A4 > A5 > A6$  -- (1)  $B1 > B-2 > B3 > B4 > B5 > B6$  -- It is (2).

[0094] Therefore, if the average mark of the 1st mark and the 2nd mark is taken out for every field, as shown in drawing 16 (B) Area 1  $(A4+B5) / \text{two points}$ , and area 2  $(A6+B4) / \text{two points}$ , The area 3 of  $(A1+B1) / \text{two points}$ , and area 6 becoming  $(A5+B6) / \text{two points}$  in  $(A3+B3) / \text{two points}$ , and area 5, and area 5 having  $[(A2+B-2) / \text{two points}]$  and area 4 ] the highest mark from the formula of the above (1) and the formula of (2) is clear.

[0095] In addition, what has still higher mark is high by taking the weighted average which gave heavy weight to the high order of mark, and since a low thing becomes low, what a mark difference spreads and has the feature of a pupil portion most is clearly distinguishable.

[0096] In the pixel of a bloodshot-eyes field, based on the pixel of the minimum lightness, at Step 108, the lightness of all pixels is amended to the pixel of the bloodshot-eyes field chosen as mentioned above so that it may be the same as the lightness of the pixel of the minimum lightness or may approach. For example, when lightness of the pixel of the bloodshot-eyes field which serves as dmin and a candidate for amendment in the lightness of the pixel of the minimum lightness in the pixel of a bloodshot-eyes field is set to x, computing lightness x' after amendment of the pixel of the bloodshot-eyes field used as the candidate for amendment by the following formulas (2) is mentioned.

[0097]

$x' = x - (x - dmin) \times a$  -- Formula (2)

(Since the picture after correction will be made in addition with a natural atmosphere if the value of a is set to  $1 \leq a \leq 1.3$ , it is desirable.) The pupil section which became bloodshot eyes as a result serves as a picture to which it applies in the center from the circumference and lightness falls gradually after correction.

[0098] Along with the line which passes along an outer canthus as an example of correction, the

lightness before correction is shown in drawing 7 (a), and the lightness after correction is shown in drawing 7 (b).

[0099] According to the saturation of the pixel of the minimum saturation, it amends about saturation as well as the correction method of the above-mentioned lightness. Of course, as long as it is finished in a natural atmosphere, only saturation may carry out amendment composition only of the lightness also as amendment composition. In addition, it is also possible to consider as the special tint which could set up the amount of amendments of characteristic quantity beforehand according to liking of a user, and was doubled with liking of a user in this case.

[0100] Or a gradation pattern is formed in a radial toward a periphery as other correction technique from the center of the corrected bloodshot-eyes field, and it attaches by the color which had the gradation pattern specified that concentration becomes thin toward a periphery from a center. Here, the maximum concentration value detected from the pupil portion of other fields which do not serve as a specified color on bloodshot eyes, the minimum concentration value and the aforementioned maximum concentration value, the maximum concentration value adjusted from the minimum concentration value, the minimum concentration value, the maximum concentration value, the minimum concentration value which were beforehand defined by the user, etc. can be chosen. In addition, since the art which gives a gradation pattern is well-known technology, detailed explanation is omitted.

[0101] In case  $d_{min}$  of the above-mentioned formula (2), the maximum of the concentration for gradation pattern controls, and the minimum value are determined, you may change either of the whole picture as a comparison field in the appointed field of an eye, and a face field in a bloodshot-eyes field.

[0102] At Step 110, a partial high brightness field, i.e., a highlight field, is formed in the corrected bloodshot-eyes field, and let this be a catch light. The position of a catch light is made into the maximum lightness position of the bloodshot-eyes field before correction, and is performed by forming the luminescent spot of a radial based on the maximum lightness position.

[0103] For example, when lightness of the pixel of the position which has  $d_{min}$  and the bloodshot-eyes field which serves as  $k$  and a candidate for amendment in the adjustment factor of lightness in the lightness of the pixel of the minimum lightness in the pixel of a bloodshot-eyes field is set to  $y(i, j)$ , computing lightness  $y'(i, j)$  of the pixel of the catch light position in a bloodshot-eyes field by the following formulas (3) is mentioned.

[0104]

$y'(i, j) = d_{min} + k(i, j) \times \{y(i, j) - d_{min}\}$  -- Formula (3)

However,  $i$  and  $j$  show the position in a catch light, and from a center, the lightness of the pixel which constitutes a catch light sets up the adjustment factor  $k$  of lightness, since it becomes low gradually at a radial, for example, as shown in the table shown in drawing 8, and it changes the adjustment factor  $k$  of lightness  $(i, j)$  according to the position in a catch light  $(i, j)$ .

[0105] In addition, it can consider as the pupil picture of a much more natural atmosphere by making it correspond to the picture size of the bloodshot-eyes field to correct, and setting up the size of a catch light, and the adjustment factor of lightness.

[0106] Moreover, although it is made to change the lightness of each pixel according to to which position of a catch light a pixel corresponds in order to form a catch light portion, it can also constitute from this operation gestalt so that a catch light pattern may be formed beforehand and it may stick on a catch light position. It can set up so that enlarging or contracting of a size can be freed also in this case, and it can consider as the pupil picture of a much more natural atmosphere by making it correspond to the picture size of the bloodshot-eyes field to correct, and changing the size of a catch light. Of course, it can do with the pupil picture of a much more natural atmosphere by enabling it to set up lightness freely similarly about lightness.

[0107] The graph of lightness which met the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along the outer canthus of the picture which performed bloodshot-eyes correction to drawing 9, and formed the catch light pattern in it is shown.

[0108] In addition, although processing from Step 102 to Step 106 shall be performed once about the same appointed field with this operation gestalt, it can also consider as a setup which repeats processing from Step 102 to Step 106 two or more times, and performs it, and

extraction of a bloodshot-eyes field can be extracted with a much more sufficient precision in this case.

[0109] In addition, this invention can connect not only the composition described above but an adjoining division field, and can also apply bloodshot-eyes evaluation. For example, when 2 \*\*\*\*s of original bloodshot-eyes portions are carried out, evaluation of circularity increases by connecting the field where a bloodshot-eyes portion is contained, and recognizing as one field. Consequently, when the evaluating point of the connected field exceeds the evaluating point in an individual division field, the connected field is judged to be a bloodshot-eyes field.

[0110] In addition, since each processing of the above-mentioned bloodshot-eyes extraction, bloodshot-eyes field correction, catch light addition, etc. is an execute permission independently, it can also perform bloodshot-eyes correction processing with the combination for which other technique or manual processing was substituted about each of each processing.

[0111] Moreover, you may perform amendment processing which carries out enlarging or contracting of the normal pupil to the extracted bloodshot-eyes field, and sticks it on it. In this case, after sticking an eye, it is good to modify and to make it suit sensibility of the whole.

[0112]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, according to invention of a claim 1 to the claim 3, the effect that only the field which divides a field correctly and has the need for correction can be chosen as a correction object domain no matter it may be what picture is attained.

[0113] Moreover, according to invention of a claim 4 and a claim 5, the effect that only a pupil field can be chosen correctly is attained.

[0114] Furthermore, according to invention of a claim 6 to the claim 20, the effect that the pupil field which is a correction object domain is correctly correctable is attained.

[0115] Moreover, according to invention of a claim 21, the effect that a natural atmosphere can be made to the corrected picture is attained.

[0116] Moreover, according to invention of a claim 22, the effect that bloodshot-eyes amendment processing can be performed with a sufficient precision is attained.

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[Translation done.]

## \* NOTICES \*

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- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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## [Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the outline block diagram of the digital language laboratory system concerning the gestalt of operation of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the general-view view of digital language laboratory system.

[Drawing 3] It is the control-block view of the image-processing section.

[Drawing 4] It is the flow view showing the flow of the bloodshot-eyes correction processing in the bloodshot-eyes processing sections 220 and 222.

[Drawing 5] It is the graph of the characteristic quantity C at the time of computing along with the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along an outer canthus.

[Drawing 6] It is explanatory drawing at the time of dividing for every mountain based on characteristic quantity C.

[Drawing 7] (a) is the graph of lightness which met the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along an outer canthus, and (b) is a graph which shows the state where the lightness of the bloodshot-eyes field in (a) was corrected, based on the formula (2) set to  $a = 1.3$ .

[Drawing 8] It is drawing showing the relation between the position of the pixel in a catch light, and the adjustment factor of lightness.

[Drawing 9] It is the graph of lightness which met the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along the outer canthus of the picture which performed bloodshot-eyes correction and formed the catch light pattern.

[Drawing 10] (a) is the transverse-plane schematic diagram of an eye, (b) is the graph of the characteristic quantity A computed along with the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along an outer canthus, and (c) is the graph of the characteristic quantity B computed along with the line of the longitudinal direction which passes along an outer canthus.

[Drawing 11] It is explanatory drawing showing the example of the specification method of the processing-object field by the operator.

[Drawing 12] It is explanatory drawing explaining the method of number allotment processing, and drawing 12 (A) shows reference area and drawing 12 (B) shows the graph of the selected characteristic quantity D.

[Drawing 13] Drawing 13 (A) is a graph which shows a part of characteristic quantity D, and drawing 13 (B) - drawing 13 (D) are explanatory drawings showing a number allotment procedure.

[Drawing 14] It is explanatory drawing explaining the option of number allotment processing.

[Drawing 15] Drawing 15 (A) shows a processing-object field, and drawing 15 (B) is a graph which shows the mark of a field in alignment with the visual axis of drawing 15 (A).

[Drawing 16] Drawing 16 (A) is explanatory drawing having shown the 1st mark given to each of six division fields, and the 2nd mark. Drawing 16 (B) is explanatory drawing having shown each number of the average mark for every six division fields.

## [Description of Notations]

10 Digital Language Laboratory System

14 Line CCD Scanner

16 Image-Processing Section

66 Light Source Section  
68 Photographic Film  
200 Data-Processing Section  
202 Log Converter  
204 Press Can Memory  
206 Fine Scan Memory  
208 Image-Data-Processing Section  
212 Press Can Processing Section  
214 Image-Data-Processing Section  
218 Fine Scanning-and-Processing Section  
220 Bloodshot-Eyes Processing Section  
224 Conditioning Section  
234 Lens Property Data Feed Zone

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[Translation done.]



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			Z
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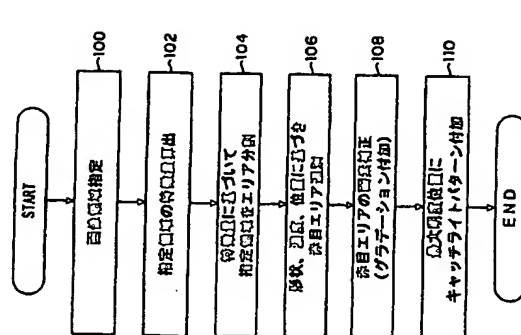
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(54) 【発明の名称】 画像処理方法

【57】【契約】

【課題】 どのような色調不良の画像であっても正  
道にエリアを分割して修正の必要のあるエリアだけを極  
正対称領域として選択できる画像処理方法を提供する。

【解決手段】 抽出要素として色相、彩度、明度から得られる色の値に基づいて山状の分布形状毎に領域分割し、指定された照の照度部分の画素の特徴値を相似の位置において算出し、得られる特徴値の値に基づいて暗部分の画素抽出を行い、赤目処理を施す。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 色調不良となった目領域を含む予め指定した画領域を×＼＼平面とし、各画素ごとに色相、彩度は、明度のうちのいずれか1つまたは2つ以上の組み合わせにより画像特徴量を求め、

保持値を  $z$  軸に配置する 3次元の  $x, y, z$  空間を設定し、 $x, y$  平面の広がりに対し  $z$  軸の値が山状の分布形状を持つ領域毎に  $x, y$  平面を領域分割し、

以上を要約すると、色調不良領域の判別を正確に行うためには、色調不良領域の判別と、色調不良領域と判別された領域を視覚的に正常な領域と見做すように修正する所除処理方法が必要である。色調不良領域の判別は、色調不良領域の形状情報、位置情報、面積情報、統計的画紋特徴値のうちのいずれか一つまたは二つ以上を組み合わせて行う必要がある。

【請求項2】 前記山状の分布形状を持つ傾域毎に、N<sub>1</sub>個の傾域を傾域分割する際に、

前記番号指定した通称領域内の各通称域に、番号割り付け処理対象の首面番を $N$ を中心とする $N \pm M$ の範囲(ただし、 $N$ 、 $M$ は1以上)面数分の凸凹領域内で、最も凸部となる頂点を検出する。この検出した頂点と、前記通称領域内の最目黒化の頂点として新規番号を割り付け、前目黒化の前目黒化の頂点との座標差が最大である場合に、この頂点を山の頂点として新規番号を割り付け、かつ、前記通称領域内の最大の面積値を持つ通称域に割り付け番号を付与する場合は、該割り付け番号を前目黒化に付する番号割り処理で、前記番号指定した通称領域内の全通称域について、いずれかの山の頂点番号が付与されるまで繰り返す。

同一番号を持つ画像の菜台を1つの領域とすることによ  
り領域分割を行う請求項1に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項3】 前記山状の分布形状を持つ領域毎に、 $N \times Y$  型面を領域分割する際に、

に記すように指定した面域内のある面素において番号が主  
となる面素を君面素とし、該君面素を中心とするN  
個の面素をN列(ただし、Nは1以上)面素方の登録面域  
を示すものとした。このとき、N列目の面素より大きな前記特微値の出  
る面素は君面素より大きな前記特微値の出る面素と見做され、前記特微値の出  
ない面素は君面素より小さな前記特微値の出る面素と見做され、前記特微値の出  
る面素は君面素より大きな前記特微値の出る面素と見做され、前記特微値の出

凡に新規着者目点の特徴との値が参照領域内で最大である場合には、前記新規着目点の番号が未決定であればこの所  
 有番号に、前記新規着目点の値と山頂点とをとり付け、前記研  
 究着目点と着目点とに番号が既に割り付けられていたその番号を、  
 前記研究着目点に決定した値がその領域内の全面積に付与す  
 る。前記研究着目点に決定した値がその領域内の全面積につ  
 いていすれか  
 1山の頂点番号が付与されるまで繰り返す。

同一番号を持つ画像の集合を1つの領域とすることにより、画像領域分割を行う請求項1又は請求項2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項4】前記凹の色調不良領域の判別において、  
各分割領域ごとに、  
円形領域特徴量を用いてより円形に近い程度となる形状係  
数としての第1の点数、

分割知述の原心が指定領域の中心位置に近い程大となる  
位置情報としての第2の点取、

分割割置の面積と指定領域の面積との比率が所定範囲外、  
外れる割合となる顔面情報としての第3の点数、  
色相、彩度、明度のうちのいずれか1つ以上における平均値、最大値、最小値、コントラスト、ヒストグラム形状のうちのいずれか1つ以上を用い、統計的な色調不均衡度と指定領域との比較より、色調不均衡度を示す統計的  
意味領域としての域4の点数。

及び、予め指定された道の中心位置と両目の間隔とに応じて求められ、道の中心から外れる程小となる位置情報としての第5の点数。

の5つの点数のうちの少なくとも1つの点数を求め、 $2n$ も点数の成いものを色鉛筆領域と判定する諸事項1から諸事項3のいずれかを1項に記述の画像図解方法。

【請求項5】 前記(1)より、 $n$ 個の点の平均値または加重平均値により、上位1、2、3、4、5、6、7、8、9、10、11、12、13、14、15、16、17、18、19、20、21、22、23、24、25、26、27、28、29、30、31、32、33、34、35、36、37、38、39、40、41、42、43、44、45、46、47、48、49、50、51、52、53、54、55、56、57、58、59、60、61、62、63、64、65、66、67、68、69、70、71、72、73、74、75、76、77、78、79、80、81、82、83、84、85、86、87、88、89、90、91、92、93、94、95、96、97、98、99、100個の順位を色付手段により判定する請求項4に記載の顔顔認識方法。

【図表第6】 色別不良となった目録域を含む野指定した図録域を×で平画とし、各図表ごとに色別、形度、明度のうちのいずれか1つまたは2つ以上の組み合わせにより図録特異口を求め。

は特徴量を2軸に配置する3次元の $x, y, z$ 空間を設定し、 $x, y$ 平面の広がりに対し $z$ 軸の値が山状の分布形状を持つ特徴量毎に $x, y$ 平面を断面を割出し、

各方割拠地域の x-y 平面上の形状情報、位置情報、面積情報、統計的関係特徴のうちのいずれか1つまたは2つ以上の組み合わせにより、割拠不長割拠の判別を行う。色割不長割拠と判別した割拠の色割不長割拠の図面は中央部にかけて明色と暗色とのいずれか1つ又は両方が検出に低下するようにグラデーションをかける処理を含む修正を行った。前記図の色割不長割拠を再処理に非常な目的位置となるように修正する処理処理方法。

【請求項 7】 前記山状の分布形状を有つ領域毎に XY 平面を領域分割する際、

[illegible]

同一番号を持つ両者の集合を1つの集合とすることによ  
り、同義集合が1つになるように、同義集合の代表元を1つに  
する。



【発明の試みる技術分野】本発明は、画像処理方法に関するし、特に、デジタル画像内の被写体の暗の色调不良を修正する画像処理方法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来の、撮影中の光の反射状態により被写体が實際とは異なる色の画像として写る場合が多々あり、この赤目はあまりにも不自然で見栄えが悪いため、画像処理により自然に見えるように修正することがなされてゐる。

【0003】例えば、ストロボで人物を正面から撮影すると、瞳孔が真っ赤又は金色に写るというわけの赤目現象が生じる場合がある。この赤目現象は、暗い場所から瞳が開いた状態の目に対してストロボの光が正面から入射することによって、ストロボの光が反跳され、この状態が瞳孔に写り込むために起こる現象であり、暗が赤く等しい赤目と瞳孔に金色に写る赤目の食目とがある（以後、両方を合せて赤目と称す。）。  
 赤目と瞳孔に金色に写る赤目の食目とがある（以後、両方を合

【0004】このような赤日は、与えたい型のため、従来よりこの赤日を修正するための様々な修正処理方法が提案されている。例えば、特開平7-72537号公報では、赤日修正対象となる日の範囲を地域毎に設定して、対象となる画面が予め定めた範囲内であれば赤日として判断して修正する方法が挙げられている。また、特開平9-261580号公報では、エッジ画素毎の斜度内角と色相情報とに基づいて傾斜補正率を選択し、色相情報と色相情報とに基づいて傾斜補正率を選択し、逆光に対するすべての傾斜補正範囲の色相内角面を修正することにより赤日修正を行う方法が挙げられている。

**[0005]**

【光明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上述の2号公開7-72537号公報を例にしながら、上述の時間差等の従来の方法では、彩度、輝度、色相における周囲処理により赤目領域を分別して修正しており、赤目の彩度、輝度、色相は適切なため、多数のサンプルにおいては認知化や抽出漏れが起きることは避けられない。また、例えば、則ち部分領域の赤目処理と共に黒く修正され、結果として違和感のある面画となる恐れもある。

【0006】また、特開平9-261580号公報第9の図のように兩隣のエッジを抽出する場合には、一般に、両隣のエッジはかなり増増であるため、過剰分割や、削減分割ミスが発生する恐れもある。

【０００７】すなわち、前者の方法では、領域ごとに区切らずに色の範囲のみで赤目かどうかを判断するため、修正の必要のない領域は修正の必要なくとも修正対象領域として検出されやすく、後者の方法では、領域の分割が正確に行えないので修正対象領域である間領域だけを修正するのが難しいという問題がある。

【0008】そこで、本発明は、どのような画像であっても正確に領域を分割して修正の必要のある領域だけでも

修正対応処置として選択である画像処理方法を提供すること第1の目的とする。また、暗視野域に於ける歪正を抑制すること第2の目的とする。さらに、修正対応領域である暗視野域を正確に修正可能な画像処理方法を提供すること第3の目的とする。また、修正された画像を自然な顔表情に仕上げることを可能な画像処理方法を提供すること第4の目的とする。

## [000]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記第1の目的を達成するために、色調不良となつた領域を含む予め指定した面画領域をx-y平面上とし、各画素ごとに色相、彩度、明度のうち何れか1つまたは2つ以上の組み合わせによるx-y空間を規定し、x-y平面上の広がりに対し2次元の面特徴量を求め、該特徴量をx-y平面上の領域分割の値が山状の分布形状を持つ領域毎にx-y平面上の領域分割の値が谷状の分布形状を持つ領域毎にx-y平面上の領域分割し、各分割領域のx-y平面上での形状情報、位置情報、面積情報、統計的画特徴量等のものをいずれか1つまたは2つ以上の組み合わせにより、該色調不良領域の判別を行い、色調不良領域と判断された領域を視覚的に正常な目的画像となるように修正する。

【0010】すなわち、本発明は、キャッチャイト部分を含めた赤目領域等の色調不良領域を一括して切り出し、修正する方法である。赤目部分は、映写部の中心程細線からの反射が強い。また、赤目は映写部の中心に向けて低下する傾向を持つ。したがって、キャッチャイトも含めて明度が山状に分布することを利用する。また、虹彩効果は、ブラウン系統では虹彩部が明度の谷間となることを利用し、青目系統では赤みの値の谷間について、赤目となった虹彩部との谷間となることを利用する。

【0011】即ち、明度や赤味を組み合わせた特徴量を用いて、赤目部とその隣接する白目及び眼部の間に谷間ができることを利用し、前記特徴量の山頂に領域分割することによって赤目部を白目及び眼部と分離することによって赤目部を白目及び眼部と分離する。

【0012】また、請求項2の発明は、前記山状の分布形状を持つ領域毎に×＼＼平面を領域分割する際に、前記予め指定した画幅領域内の各画素毎に、番号割り付け処理対象の注目画素を中心とするN行×N列（ただし、

N、Mは1以上1画面分の参照領域内で、君目画面の表示  
記特徴量の値が最大である場合はこの君目画面を山の頂  
点として1軒屋番号を割り付け、君目画面の前後記特徴量の  
値が最大でなく、かつ、前後2軒屋領域内の君目画面以外  
の最大の特徴量の値を持つ画面が割り付け番号を持つ場  
合は、該割り付け番号を付与する番号列に付け加えて理  
前記予め指定した画領域内の全画面について1ずつ繰り  
の山の頂点番号が付与されるまで繰り返し、同一番号を  
持つ画面の集合を1つの領域とすることにより画領域別  
分割を行う。この方法によれば、領域分割をプログラム  
処理により行うことができ、ユーザを煩わすこと  
がなく好ましい。

【0013】さらに、当該表3に記述の発明は、前記3の状態の分布形状を持つ相対値にN×Y平面を領域分割する際、に、前記3が指定した領域内内の各座標について番号が未決定の場合、該番号面表を中心とし、該番号面表の各座標に、N、N+1(1以上)両方分の各座標にN行N列(ただし、N、N+1は1以上)両方分の各座標に領域内に入置き番号面表より大きい前記特長値の値を有する面表がある場合、現番号面表の位置を該座標とし、前記特長値の座標が大きい面表を該座標面表とする番号を繰り返して、該座標の座標が大きい面表を該座標面表とする番号を繰り返して、前記座標面表の特長値の番号が未決定であればある場合、前記座標面表の座標として新規番号を割り付け、前記新規番号面に番号が既に割り付けられていればその番号を前記座標した座標の座標面に付する番号割付処理を、前記3が指定した座標領域内の全座標についていられ、その山の頂点番号が付けられるまで繰り返し、同一番号を持つ面表の集合を1つの前値とすることにより樹状領域分割を行う。

【0014】このように、番号が与えてできない面点については、例えば、座標としてその位置を記憶し、数値に新規着目点となった面点に番号が与えられると、記憶した座標の面点の全てに数値に新規着目点となった面点の番号を付与するようにより処理することによって偏見・偏見の山脈に新規分割する処理を高度に行うことができる。

[illegible]

1つ以上における平均値、最大値、最小値、コントラスト、ヒストグラム形状のうちのいずれか1つ以上を用い、結晶質の色調不良指数特性値との比較を行い、色調不良判定を示す閾値画像特徴量としての第4の点数、及び、予め指定された中心位置と両目の間隔とに基づいて求められ、瞳孔から外れる筈小となる位相位置と、その間の5つの点数の5つの点数のうち少なくとも1つとて得る5つの点数の5つの点数の高いものを色調不良指数として算出する。

[0016] すなわち、請求項に記載の発明は、図1に記載の分類領域から赤目判定等の色調不良判定を必要に応じて実行する方法であって、分割領域は面、位置、並びに色に関する統計特徴量を、それらと対応して近い位置に近い点数、かつ、顔から遠ざかるにつれて低い点数とされるような傾向を有する第1〜第5の点数に換算し、これら第1〜第5の点数の少なくとも1つを用いて色調不良判定基準値を算出する。

【0017】なお、第5点数は、両目の間隔に所定の値（一般的には、 $0.07 \sim 0.11$ ）を乗算すると略の

合わせにより、暗の色調不良領域の判別を行い、色調不良領域と判別された暗の色調不良領域の最大明度位置をキャッチャイト位置と判別し、該キャッチャイト位置にキャッチャイトパターンを形成する処理を含む修正を行う。前記暗の色調不良領域を視覚的に正常な目の画像となるように修正する。

【0023】すなわち、請求項10の発明では、上記請求項6と同様に上記請求項1と同様の方法で前記色調不良領域の判別を行っているため、赤目などの色調不良領域を赤目及び眼帯と正確に判別でき、結果よく修正することができ。

【0024】それに加えて、請求項10の発明では、暗部分の領域内の最大明度位置をキャッチャイト位置と判別して、キャッチャイトパターンを形成している。すなわち、キャッチャイトパターンは暗部分において部分的に濃度の高い領域であるので、キャッチャイト位置は最も明るい位置であることがわかる。従って、暗部分の領域内の最大明度位置にキャッチャイトを設ける処理を施すことにより、自然で生き生きとした印象の目の画像が得られる。なお、請求項11から請求項15は、上記請求項2から請求項5例様の作用を有するので、説明は省略する。

【0025】請求項16の発明は、色調不良となった目の領域を含む予め指定した領域をX-Y平面上とし、各画素ごとに色相、彩度、明度のうちのいずれか1つまたは2つ以上の組み合わせにより画像特徴量を求め、該特徴量を2軸に配置する3次元のX-Y-Z空間を生成し、X-Y平面上の画素に対して他の画素の形状や位置を保持する形状情報、位置情報、面積情報、統計情報等を生成する。この組み合わせにより、暗の色調不良領域の判別を行い、色調不良領域と判別された暗領域のサイズに合うように正常な暗領域から切り出した色調正常の暗領域を拡大縮小し、前記色調不良領域と判別された暗領域に貼り込む処理を含む修正を行う。前記暗の色調不良領域を視覚的に正常な目の画像となるように修正する。

【0026】すなわち、請求項16の発明は、色調不良領域と判別された暗領域に正常な暗領域から切り出した色調正常の暗領域を拡大縮小して貼り付けるため、比較的簡単な修正処理で暗の色調不良領域を視覚的に正常な目の画像となるように修正できる。なお、請求項17から請求項20は、上記請求項2から請求項5同様の作用を有するので、説明は省略する。

【0027】さらに、上記請求項4の目的を達成するため、請求項21の発明は、請求項1から請求項21のいずれか1項に記載の画像処理方法において、前記色調不良の領域を含む指定領域の指定回数に応じて、画像の領域分割手法または領域分割に用いる特徴量を変更し、あるいは、色調不良領域判定に用いる特徴量の種類または

は特徴量の計算方法または判定基準を変更し、あるいは、色調不良領域の修正方法を変更する。

【0028】これにより、修正の必要のないもう一方の目の位置と修正した目の画像の位置とを比較して修正した目の画像の位置を自然な位置に配置されるようにする。修正した目の色を、修正の必要のないもう一方の目の色と同じ雰囲気にするのが可能である。また、自然な雰囲気仕上げるのが可能である。また、キャッチャイトの領域内の位置関係が画目によって、キャッチャイトの位置補正も行う。

【0029】請求項22の発明は、赤目修正処理を複数回行う場合に対応する発明であり、請求項1から請求項21のいずれか1項に記載の画像処理方法において、前記色調不良の領域を含む指定領域の指定回数に応じて、暗領域の領域分割手法または領域分割に用いる特徴量を変更し、あるいは、色調不良領域判定に用いる特徴量の種類または特徴量の計算方法または判定基準を変更し、あるいは、色調不良領域の修正方法を変更する。

【0030】例えば、赤目領域判定基準が上記特徴量の山崎領域判定である場合、二回目の赤目領域判定基準を上記特徴量の山崎領域判定ではなく、色相の類似度による領域分割に変更したり、判定において一回目の判定で用いていた内形判定基準を除外する。あるいは一回目の判定で用いていた内形判定基準を除外するなどが挙げられる。

【0031】

【発明の実施形態】図1及び図2には、本実施形態に係るデジタルラボシステム100の構成構成が示されている。

【0032】図1に示すように、このデジタルラボシステム100は、ラインCCDスキャナ14、画像処理部16、レーザプリンタ18、及びプロセッサ20を含んで構成されており、ラインCCDスキャナ14と画像処理部16は、図2に示す入力部28として一体化されており、レーザプリンタ18及びプロセッサ20は、図2に示す出力部28として一体化されている。

【0033】ラインCCDスキャナ14は、ネガフィルムやリバーサルフィルム等の写真フィルムに記録されているコマ画像を読み取るためのものであり、例えば135サイズの写真フィルム、110サイズの写真フィルム、5サイズの写真フィルム、110サイズの写真フィルム、及び透明な磁気層が形成された写真フィルム(240サイズの写真フィルム：所謂APSフィルム)、120サイズの写真フィルム(ローニサイズ)の写真フィルムのコマ画像を記録対象とすることができ、ラインCCDスキャナ14は、上記の記録対象のコマ画像をラインCCD30で読み取り、A/D変換部32においてA/D変換した後、画像データを画像処理部16へ出力する。

【0034】なお、本実施形態では、240サイズの写真フィルム(APSフィルム)68を適用した場合のデジタルラボシステム100として説明する。

【0035】画像処理部16は、ラインCCDスキャナ14から出力された画像データ(スキャン画像データ)が入力されると共に、デジタルカメラ34等での撮影によって得られた画像データ、原稿(例えば原稿原稿等)をスキャナ36(フラットベッド型)で読み取ることで得られた画像データ、他のコンピュータで生成され、フロッピディスクドライブ38、MOドライブ又はCDドライブ40に記録された画像データ、及びモデム42を介して受信する通信画像データ等(以下、これらをフィルム画像データと総称する)を外部から入力することも可能なように構成されている。

【0036】画像処理部16は、入力された画像データを画像メモリ44に記憶し、色補正処理部46、ハイパースペクトル処理部48、ハイパーシャープネス処理部50等の各種の補正等の画像処理を行う。記録用画像データとしてレーザプリンタ18へ出力する。また、画像処理部16は、画像処理を行った画像データを画像ファイルとして外部へ出力する(例えばF.D、N.O、C.D等の記憶媒体に出力したり、送信回線を通じて他の画像処理部へ送信する等)ことも可能とされている。

【0037】レーザプリンタ18はR、G、Bのレーザ光源52を備えており、レーザドライバ54を制御して、画像処理部16から入力された記録用画像データ(一旦、画像メモリ56に記憶される)に応じて変換したレーザ光を印刷面に照射し、走査露光(本実施形態では、主としてポリゴンミラー58、fθレンズ60を用いた光学系)によって印刷面62に画像を記録する。また、プロセッサ20は、レーザプリンタ18で走査露光によって画像が記録された印刷面62に対して、発色調整、濃白調整、水洗、乾板の各処理を施す。これにより、印刷面上に画像が形成される。

【0038】ラインCCDスキャナの構成に、ラインCCDスキャナ14の構成について説明する。図1に示すラインCCDスキャナ14の光学系の構成構成が示されている。この光学系は、写真フィルム68に光を照射する光源66を備えており、光源66の発光出力には、写真フィルム68に照射する光を拡散光とする光拡散板72が設置されている。

【0039】写真フィルム68は、光拡散板72が設置された側に設置されたフィルムアリア74によって、コマ画像の画像が光軸と垂直になるように搬送される。【0040】写真フィルム68を挟んで光源66と反対側には、光軸に沿って、コマ画像を通過した光を減衰させるレンズユニット76、ラインCCD30が順に配置されている。なお、レンズユニット76として単一のレンズのみを示しているが、レンズユニット76は、実際には複数のレンズから構成されたズームレンズである。なお、レンズユニット76として、セルフクロッキングを用いてもよい。この場合、セルフクロッキングの両端部をそれぞれ、可能な限り写真フィルム68及びラ

ラインCCD30に接近させることが好ましい。

【0041】ラインCCD30は、複数のCCDセルを並べた写真フィルム68の幅方向に沿って一列に配置され、かつ電圧シフト機構が設けられたセンシング部が、間隔を置いて互いに平行に3ライン駆けられており、各センシング部の光入射側にR、G、Bの色分解フィルタの何れかが各々取り付けられて構成されている(所謂3ラインカラーCCD)。ラインCCD30は、各センシング部の受光面がレンズユニット76の結像点位置に一致するように配置されている。

【0042】また、図示は省略するが、ラインCCD30とレンズユニット76との間にはシヤッタが設けられている。

(画像処理部16の制御系の構成)図3には、図1に示す画像処理部16の主要構成である画像メモリ44、色補正処理部46、ハイパースペクトル処理部48、ハイパーシャープネス処理部50の各処理を実行するための詳細なブロック図が示されている。

【0043】ラインCCDスキャナ14から出力されたRGBの各デジタル信号は、データ処理部200において、暗部補正、欠損画素補正、シェーディング補正等の特定のデータ処理が施された後、10ビット変換器202によってデジタル画像データ(変換データ)に変換され、アドレスキャッチングはアドレスキャッチメモリ204に記憶され、アドレスキャッチデータはアドレスキャッチメモリ206に記憶される。

【0044】アドレスキャッチメモリ204に記憶されたアドレスキャッチデータは、画像データ処理部208と画像データ処理部210とで処理されたアドレスキャッチメモリ206に記憶される。一方、アドレスキャッチメモリ206に記憶されたアドレスキャッチデータは、画像データ処理部214と画像データ処理部216とで処理されたアドレスキャッチデータ218へ送出される。

【0045】これらのアドレスキャッチデータ218及びアドレスキャッチデータ218では、画像を撮影したときとレンズ特性及びストロポを使用した撮影したときのストロポ特性に基づき補正等を実行する。

【0046】また、画像データ処理部208、214には、各種フィルムの特性を記憶するフィルム特性記憶部232と、フィルムを撮影したカメラを判別する情報を取得して対応する画像カメラに応じたレンズ特性を出力するレンズ特性データ供給部234とが設けられている。

【0047】フィルムの特性とは、露光特性(γ特性)であり、一般には、露光量に応じて濃度が三次元的に変化する曲線で表される。なお、この点は周知の技術であるため、詳細な説明は省略する。

【0048】また、フィルム補正処理は、本実施形態では、APSフィルムでの補正処理にフィルム補正を示す情報を記憶しており、ラインCCDスキャナ14の

キャリア74での稼働時に、磁気ヘッドによって読み取ることが可能である。また、1.35サイズフィルムの出台には、その形状（磁気ヘッドに比較的短いピッチでパフォーマンス）が提供されている）等で判断してもよい。フィルムは特定することができ、個々のフィルムベースの相対的な変位を正確に算出できる。

【0049】前記データ処理部208、214では、フイルムデータ処理部232とレジスタ付データ供給部234とから得られる、カラーバランス及び色相に合わせた基板上の補正を行い、カラーバランス調整、コントラスト調整（色調処理）、明度補正、彩度補正（ハイパー処理）、ハイパーシャープネス処理等が、LUT（マトリクス、NTX）演算により実行されるようになっている。

【0050】また、画像データ処理部208、214には、前記各評価、補正後に、赤目となった画部分を自然な色に修正する赤目処理部220、222が設けられていて、この赤目処理部220、222における赤目修正については、後述する。

【0051】プレスキャン用の画像データ変換部210では、画像データ処理部208によって処理された画像データを3D-LUTに基づいてモニタ16Mへ表示するためのディスプレイ用画像データに変換している。一方、フェイスキャン用の画像データ216では、画像データ処理部214によって処理された画像データを、3D-LUTに基づいてレーザプリンタ部18でのプリント用画像データに変換している。なお、上記ディスプレイ用の画像データと、プリント用画像データとは、表色系が異なるが、以下のような様々な補正によって一致を図っている。

【0052】すなわち、プレスキャン処理部212及びファインスキャン処理部218には、条件設定部224及び判定部226が設けられている。条件設定部224は、セットアップ部226、キー補正部228、パラメータ統合部230と連携して動作する。

【0053】セットアップ部226は、プレスキャンデータを用いて、ファインスキャンの追加条件を設定し、ラングCCD素子ナ14に供給し、また、プレスキャン処理部212及びファインスキャン処理部218の画素毎の条件を減算し、パラメータ統合部230に供給している。

【0054】キー補正部228は、キーボード16Kに設定された温度、色、コントラスト、シャープネス、彩度等を調整するキーやマウスで入力された各種の指示やデータに応じて、画像処理条件の調整量を算出し、パラメータ設定部230へ供給している。

【0055】パラメータ統合部230では、上記セットアップ部226及びキー補正部228から受け取った画像処理条件をプレスキャン部及びフラインスキャン部の

画像データ処理部208、214へ送り、画像処理条件を補正あるいは再設定する。

【0056】ここで、赤目処理部220、222における赤目修正について、図4のフロー図を参照しながら説明する。

【0057】ステップ100では、カラーバランス調整、コントラスト調整、明るさ補正、彩度補正（ハイパートーン処理）、ハイパーシャープネス処理等が、LU-Tやマトリクス（MTX）演算等の各種補正処理が施された目的画像をその内蔵を含めて処理対象領域として指定する。

【0058】処理部208は、オペレータによってキー補正部208から入力した、画像内の部分に赤色が検出している領域を画像データ処理部214によって抽出することにより行える。本実施形態では、オペレータによるキー入力によってキー補正部208から処理部208は指定している。

【0059】なお、オペレータによる処理対象前後の指定方法としては、例えば、図11(A)～(F)に示すように、両目一括指定モード1、両目一括指定モード2、単独指定モード1、単独指定モード2、単独指定モード3、及び単独指定モード4の6つのモードから選択して指定できる。

【0060】阿目一粘指定モード1は、図111(A)に示すように、阿目と阿目の間辺部を含む領域を、面処理部16に与えられるマウスイヤード等により矩形状の枠13で囲んで枠13内の領域を指定するモードである。この場合、図111(A)の破線で示すように、指定された枠13の長短の面外側から所定の比率で指定して領域を分割し、得られた分割領域を処理対象領域とする。なお、所定の比率とは枠13の長短の寸法に対する目的の寸法の比率を統計的に算出して得られる比率であり、分割された領域が各々小さくとも1つの目を含み、領域の形状が階層されるように設定される。なお、枠13は地形形状に限らず、閉閉形状等他の形状としてもよい。

【0051】また、両目一括指定モード2は、図11(B)に示すように、両目の瞳の中心点を視座処理部16に与えられたカメラズやポート等によって指定して、両目と両目の周辺領域をきむ領域を指定するモードである。この場合、指定した両目の瞳の中心点を結ぶ直線の両端から所定の比率となる長さを含む $1/2$ の長さとする形状の領域を両々の目の領域とし、得られた分割領域を両目の領域とする。

【0062】なお、この場合も上記の両目一括指定モード1と同様に、所定の比率とは指定した両目の瞳の中心部を結ぶ直線に対する目の寸法の比率を統計的に算出して得られる比率であり、唇口の領域は各々少なくとも1つの目を含み、唇口の領域が解かれるように設定される。

【0063】また、上記両目一括指定モード1及び両目一括指定モード2においては、個々の目領域に領域を分割せずに両目を含んだ領域を処理対象領域とし、一括して赤目抽出処理を行うようにすることもできる。

【0064】単独指定モード1は、図11(C)に示すように、1つの目の周辺領域を含む領域を、画像処理部116に送けられたマウスやキーボード等により矩形の枠13で囲んで指定し、枠13内の領域を型取り対象領域とするモードである。この場合も、枠13は矩形に限らず四角形やその他の形状としてもよい。

〔0065〕また、単位指定モード2は、図11(D)に示すように、目の中心部と、目全体を含むように形成する枠の位置とを指定して、中心部に対する枠の位置から統計的に得られる比率に基づいて1つの目を含む13枠を自動的に形成するように設定して、この13枠の領域を望遠鏡像領域として指定するモードである。

【0066】単独形成モード3は、図11(E)に示すように、目の中心部、または目の周辺部と一方をワーク所15に設定することにより、目全体を含むデフォルトサイズの枠13を目始めに形成するように設定してこの枠13内の領域を加工対象領域として指定するモードである。なお、この場合、顔全体を矩形形状、又は楕円形状等

の枠等で両人で指定され、顔と目の比率に応じて目片若しくは両目片はサイズの作目数動的に形成するように設定してこの枠内の領域を処理対象領域として指定するモードとすることもできる。言い、両目の中心点を指定して両目を包含する枠を自動的に形成してこの枠内の領域を処理対象領域として指定するモードとすることもできる。

【0067】単独指定モード4は、図11(F)に示すように、目を含む目の周辺の領域を画素処理部16に送られたマウスやキーボード等により手書きの文字で囲みこんで形成した枠内の領域を処理対象領域として指定するモードである。

【0068】次に、ステップ102では、上記6つのモードうちのいずれか1つのモードによって指定された処理対象領域の特徴量を算出する。ここでは、曲出要素と処理対象領域の対応関係に基づいて、曲出要素として色相、彩度、明度から得られる色の値を選択し、色相部分の画素を一括して切り出すような特徴量を選択する。

【0069】ここで、赤味を白質で表すと、「白は赤味」が強い程大くなるので、赤目部では大となり、また、青い目ではマイナス値となる。また、明度をグレースcaledで表すと、明るい画素はd値が大となるので、キャッチャイト部や、白目部では大となり、ブラウン系眼の虹彩部では小となる。

【0070】具体的には、レッド値 (r) を特徴量点、グレイ値 (d) を特徴量 B としたとき、 $\alpha \times B + (1 - \alpha) \times |A| \cdots$  式 (1) (ただし、 $\alpha$  の好ましい値としては実験的に、 $\alpha = 0.3$  以上、 $0.5$  以下が得られて



1行の画素列の右に3行の画素行がそれぞれn列ずつ示されている。なお、各注目画素の座標を  $(X_i, Y_i)$  (ただし、 $m$ は1以上の自然数)と記す。

【0078】図13(B)に示すように、まず、1列目～3列目までの参照エリア24としたとき、注目画素21となる画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  の特徴値Dが参照エリア24の中で最も大きいかを判断する。この場合、図13(A)に示すように、注目画素21となる画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  の特徴値より大きい画素  $(X_j, Y_j)$  の特徴値  $D_j$  の方が大きいので、注目画素21となる画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  には番号を付与せず、次の参照エリアの注目画素について参照エリアの中で特徴値が大きいかを判断する。

【0079】なお、この例では、注目画素がN列に沿って1つずつ矢印11方向に移動するように処理するものとする。したがって、次の参照エリアは2列目～4列目、その次の参照エリアは3列目～5列目、...というように、参照エリアが移動することとなる。

【0080】図13(C)に示すように、3～5列目までを参照エリア24としたとき、注目画素21となる画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  の特徴値はちょうど画素13(A)に示す山形状の頂点に対応しているため、最も大きくなる。したがって、新規割り番号として「1」を付与して次の参照エリア、すなわち、4列目～6列目の注目画素について特徴値の大きさを判断する。

【0081】4列目～6列目の参照エリアから谷部に対応する画素を注目画素とする8列目～10列目までの参照エリアの注目画素は、全て前回の注目画素より特徴値が小さいので、全て「1」が付与されることとなる。【0082】前述各列に対応する画素の1つ次の画素を注目画素とする7列目～9列目までの参照エリアから次の山形状に対応する画素の1つ前の画素を注目画素とする13列目～15列目までの参照エリアは全て前回の注目画素よりも特徴値が大きいので、全て番号が付与されず、次の山部に対応する画素を注目画素とする14列目～16列目までの参照エリアから次の谷部に対応する画素を注目画素とする参照エリアの注目画素までが全て新規割り番号として「2」が付与され、この繰り返しにより、図13(D)に示すように、一列目の割り処理では、それぞれ山の山に対応した新規割り番号が部分的に付与されることとなる。

【0083】したがって、次の行、例えば、N+1行目を注目画素としたときN行目の番号割り処理により割り付けられた番号との比較を含んだ参照エリア内での特徴値の比較を行うこととなるため、何度も繰り返して番号割り処理を行うことにより、各山形状を構成する画素は全て各山形状に対応して付与された番号が付与され、最終的には全ての画素に番号が付与されることとなる。したがって、特徴値の山形状ごとに対応した番号で分割された複数の領域が得られることとなる。

【0084】なお、参照エリア内において注目画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  の特徴値よりも特徴値の大きい画素  $(X_m, Y_m)$  が存在し、該画素に番号が付与されていない場合、注目画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  の位置を保持して記憶し、前記画素列の画素  $(X_m, Y_m)$  を新規の注目画素として参照エリアを決定し、該新規の注目画素  $(X_m, Y_m)$  が新たに決定した参照エリア内で最も大きな特徴値を有しているかを判断する。

【0085】前記新規の注目画素  $(X_m, Y_m)$  よりも大きな特徴値を有する画素が新たに決定した参照エリア内に存在すれば、さらに、新規の注目画素  $(X_m, Y_m)$  の位置を保持して記憶し、前記新規の注目画素  $(X_i, Y_i)$  よりも大きな特徴値を有する画素  $(X_{m+1}, Y_{m+1})$  (ただし、 $i, j$ は自然数)を新規の注目画素として同様処理を繰り返すように処理しても良い。

【0086】この場合、必ずしも同一行の画素のみが注目画素になるわけではないが、1回特徴値を比較した画素内では番号が付与できない場合も記憶しておき、その領域内で最も特徴値が高い画素に番号が付与されると、図14に示すように、記憶した画素全てにその番号が付与されることとなるので、何度も繰り返して特徴値を比較して番号を付与する場合に比べて速い速度で番号割り処理を行うことができる。このような番号割り処理により、図6に示すように、ほぼ目の部位に対応する領域ごとに領域が分割されたエリアが得られる。

【0087】ステップ106では、ステップ104で分割した領域についてそれぞれ、形状、他の領域との配置関係(位置)、面積比率、濃度、平均色味の各々についてチェックし、要部分の特徴値を最も有するものを参照領域として選択する。なお、1つの目の目の場合は、形状、他の領域との配置関係(位置)、面積比率、濃度、平均色味の各々について評価し、最も評価の高い領域を参照領域として選択する。

【0088】評価の方法としては、例えば、各分割領域ごとに、円形領域が大きいほど点数が高くなる第1の点数を求め、最も点数の高いものを要部分の特徴値を最も有するもの、すなわち、参照領域とする方法がある。また、各分割領域ごとに、重心の位置と指定領域の中心位置との間の距離を算出して、距離が短いほど点数が高くなる第2の点数を求め、最も点数の高いものを要部分の特徴値を最も有するもの、すなわち、参照領域とする方法がある。

【0089】さらに、各分割領域ごとに、分割領域の面積と指定領域の面積との比率を求め、得られた比率が予め求めた閾値と指定領域の面積との比率の範囲外の領域を除外する。また、指定領域から外れる程度が小さくなる第3の点数を求め、最も点数の高いものを要部分の特徴値を最も有するもの、すなわち、参照領域とする方法がある。

【0090】また、色相、彩度、明度のうちのいずれか

1つ以上における平均値、最大値、最小値、コントラス、ヒストグラム形状のうちのいずれか1つ以上を用い、予め測定されている統計的な色調不良領域情報との比較より、色調不良領域の特徴に近い特徴を有するものほど点数が高くなる第4の点数を求め、最も点数の高いものを要部分の特徴値を最も有するもの、すなわち、参照領域とする方法がある。

【0091】さらに、予め指定された瞳の中心位置と他の領域とに応じて求められ、瞳の中心から外れる程度が小さくなる第5の点数を求め、最も点数の高いものを要部分の特徴値を最も有するもの、すなわち、参照領域とする方法がある。第5の点数は、例えば、図15(A)に示す瞳孔の中心位置を比較した図15(B)に示すように、瞳孔部分が瞳孔部分を除外した点数が低くなるように設定している。

【0092】これら5つの点数のうちの少なくとも1つの点数を選択し、この点数に基づいて参照領域を判定しても良いが、より好ましくは、前述5つの点数のうち2つ以上における平均点数または加重平均点数により、上位1(ただし、1は1以上)個の領域を色調不良領域と判定するようにする。図16に示すように6つのエリア(分割領域)に分割されている場合、図16(A)に示すように、第1の点数が、エリア1は4点、エリア2は4点、エリア3は2点、エリア4は4点、エリア5は4点、エリア6は5点であり、第2の点数が、エリア1は5点、エリア2は4点、エリア3は2点、エリア4は3点、エリア5は3点、エリア6は3点、エリア7は1点、エリア8は6点であるとする。ただし、 $A1 > A2 > A3 > A4 > A5 > A6 \dots (1), B1 > B2 > B3 > B4 > B5 > B6 \dots (2)$  である。

【0093】例えば、図16に示すように6つのエリア(分割領域)に分割されている場合、図16(A)に示すように、第1の点数が、エリア1は4点、エリア2は4点、エリア3は2点、エリア4は4点、エリア5は4点、エリア6は5点であり、第2の点数が、エリア1は5点、エリア2は4点、エリア3は2点、エリア4は3点、エリア5は3点、エリア6は3点、エリア7は1点、エリア8は6点であるとする。ただし、 $A1 > A2 > A3 > A4 > A5 > A6 \dots (1), B1 > B2 > B3 > B4 > B5 > B6 \dots (2)$  である。

【0094】したがって、それぞれの領域ごとに第1の点数と第2の点数との平均点を算出すると、図16(B)に示すように、エリア1は  $(A1 + B1)/2$  点、エリア2は  $(A2 + B2)/2$  点、エリア3は  $(A3 + B3)/2$  点、エリア4は  $(A4 + B4)/2$  点、エリア5は  $(A5 + B5)/2$  点、エリア6は  $(A6 + B6)/2$  点、エリア7は  $(A7 + B7)/2$  点、エリア8は  $(A8 + B8)/2$  点となる。

【0095】なお、点数の高い順に順に重みをつけた加重平均を取ることにによって、より一層点数の高いものは高く、低いものは低くなるので、点数差がかなり要部分の特徴を最も有するものを明確に区別できる。

【0096】ステップ108では、上述のようにして選

択された参照領域の画素に対し、参照領域の画素の中で最も明度の画素に基づいてその画素の明度を最小明度の画素の明度と同じ又は近づくように補正する。例えば、参照領域の画素の中で最小明度の画素の明度を  $d_{min}$  とし、参照領域の画素  $(i, j)$  の明度を  $d_{ij}$  とすると、 $d_{ij} = d_{min} + \frac{d_{ij} - d_{min}}{d_{max} - d_{min}} \times (d_{max} - d_{min})$  となる。

n、補正対象となる参照領域の画素の明度を  $x$  としたとき、補正対象となる参照領域の画素の補正後の明度  $x'$  は以下の式(2)により算出することが求められる。

【0097】

$$x' = x - (x - d_{min}) \times a \dots (2)$$

(なお、 $a$  の値を  $1 \leq a \leq 1.3$  とすると補正後の画素を自然な茶色域とできるため好ましい。) 結果的に茶色となった瞳孔部分は、瞳孔後に周辺から中央にかけて徐々に明度が低下する領域となる。

【0098】修正例として、図17(a)に修正後の明度を7(a)に修正前の明度、図7(b)に修正後の明度を示す。

【0099】彩度についても上記明度の修正手法と同様に最小彩度の画素の彩度に合わせて補正する。もちろん、自然な茶色域に仕上がるのであれば、明度だけ補正する領域としても彩度だけ補正する領域としてもよい。なお、瞳孔縁の補正はユーザーの好みによって予め決定しておいてもよく、この場合、ユーザーの好みによって特定の彩度合いとすることも可能である。

【0100】または、他の修正手法として、修正した参照領域の中心から領域に向かって放射状に階層化を形成し、中心から領域に向かって領域が深くなるようにグラデーションパターンを指定された色で付ける。ここで、指定された色とは、例えば、茶色になつていない他の領域の領域部分から検出された最大濃度値と最小濃度値と、前記最大濃度値と最小濃度値より算出された最大濃度値と最小濃度値、ユーザーにより予め定められた最大濃度値と最小濃度値等を選択できる。なお、グラデーションパターンを付与する処理方法は、周知の技術であるため、詳細な説明は省略する。

【0101】上記式(2)の  $d_{min}$  は、グラデーションパターン制御用の濃度の最大値や最小値を決定する際に、参照領域内、目の指定領域内、参照領域内、瞳孔を伴った領域を比較領域として切り替えてもよい。

【0102】ステップ110では、修正した参照領域内に部分的な茶色領域、すなわちハイライト領域を形成しこれをキャッチャイトとする。キャッチャイトの位置は、修正前の参照領域の最大明度位置とし、その最大明度位置に基づいて放射状の模様を形成することにより行う。

【0103】例えば、参照領域の画素の中で最小明度の画素の明度を  $d_{min}$ 、明度の調整係数を  $y$ 、修正対象となる参照領域のある位置の画素の明度を  $y(i, j)$  としたとき、参照領域内のキャッチャイト位置の画素の明度  $y'(i, j)$  は以下の式(3)により算出することが求められる。

【0104】

$$y'(i, j) = y(i, j) - d_{min} \dots (3)$$







